

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1987

Israel

A Labor Party communique called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to resign because he is "unfit" to remain in office and is blocking one of the rare chances in Israel's history to make peace, Jerusalem radio reported. The sharply worded statement followed the conclusion of the 13 May Inner Cabinet session, which ended without a vote on any proposal. Shamir and other Likud ministers said after the meeting that since Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal had not been approved, none of the ministers has henceforth any right to promote it on behalf of the Israeli Government, according to IDF radio.

IDF radio also broadcast remarks by Peres, who said he did not officially raise his proposal in the Inner Cabinet because "the outcome was known in advance and there was no sense in driving ourselves into an impossible and futile technical position." The Labor leader said the Likud's attempt to do away with his proposal means the end of the peace process and is therefore a violation of one of the most important basic guidelines of the coalition government. The right solution to the split in the government is to ask the people to decide, he affirmed. In related remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres confirmed that he will seek a Knesset majority for early elections and signalled his intention to continue promoting the peace process "because there is no decision to bar me from it." The radio disclosed that Peres has shortened his U.S. tour in view of the internal crisis, noting that he will leave for Washington 14 May and will return 18 May.

Prior to the cabinet session, Shamir had criticized Peres in a speech of "unprecedented toughness," Jerusalem radio reported, noting that he accused Peres of misleading the public over the conditions for an international conference in order to bring about elections for personal and party interests. According to a source in Shamir's office cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, the prime minister was "incensed" by the leak of a message from Secretary of State George Shultz favoring Peres' proposal for an international conference. In another development, *Yedi'ot Aharonot* reported that one of Peres' advisers discussed the international conference issue in a "secret" meeting with Soviet officials in Geneva last weekend.

Inter-arab Affairs

Jordanian-Egyptian Summit — Talks in Cairo between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn focused on efforts to gain maximum support for holding an international Middle East peace conference and on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war, Egyptian official Usamah al-Baz disclosed in remarks cited by MENA. He said the king's 12 May visit was part of the continuing contacts between Jordan and Egypt aimed at coordinating stands and bolstering cooperation. On the international conference issue, Al-Baz said that Jordan and Egypt are trying to reach an overall Arab consensus, and he added that all Arab countries

bordering Israel should understand the need to exploit the present atmosphere, which is "more favorable than before" in regard to convening a conference. As for the powers of such a conference, Al-baz stressed that it "cannot impose solutions" on the participants, and he added that the time has come for the Arabs to "abandon the illusion that a solution can be imposed." No international forum can impose a solution in the absence of agreement between the parties who are directly concerned, he said, and the outcome of the conference will depend on each party's satisfaction and commitment to implement the pledges it undertakes.

An Amman television report on the Husayn-Mubarak summit likewise linked the talks with Husayn's continuing efforts to achieve a unified Arab stand on efforts to convene an international conference. In another development on the conference issue, Jordan's information minister categorically denied *The New York Times* report that his country has pledged to "limit" the USSR's role in the proposed peace conference, Amman radio noted. Speaking to a *REUTER* correspondent, he said the Soviet Union must fully participate in the conference along with all the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Arab Summit — "All" the Arab countries have agreed to convene the 13th Arab summit conference in Riyadh at the beginning of September, a senior Arab League official announced in a press statement cited by WAKH 13 May. Speaking to the UAE's *Al-Khaliq*, the official added that relations between Syria and the PLO are the only outstanding obstacle to such a summit, and he predicted that this will be overcome by the mediation efforts of the USSR, Algeria, and Libya.

Iraq-Libya Talks — A 10 May report by the UAE's *Al-Itihad* stated that Iraq and Libya have begun contacts aimed at restoring diplomatic relations.

Iranian-Syrian Consultations

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran for high-level discussions on bilateral relations and regional issues, Tehran radio reported. In addition to delivering a message to Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i from his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, Faruq al-Shar' relayed Al-Asad's assurance that the efforts of their mutual enemies will not affect the "friendly and fraternal" bilateral relations. Khamene'i praised Syrian "steadfastness" and condemned the "conspiracy" to extend the Camp David accords.

Responding to the foreign minister's briefing on the Syrian president's recent visit to Moscow, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Soviet support for Iraq is the "most important problem" in Iran-USSR relations. The downfall of the Iraqi regime will solve certain problems for Syria and Lebanon, Rafsanjani asserted, adding that if Iran, Syria, Leba-

non, and Iraq "are together," the issue of Palestine can be resolved.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Shar' termed the visit "successful and positive," Tehran radio noted, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the two countries' hope that the "expanding trend" in bilateral relations will continue.

Gulf Affairs

War Reports — Iraqi air strikes 13 May damaged "industrial units" in Esfahan and Tabriz, IRNA reported, adding that several people were wounded. The agency also announced that, during a "blitz attack," the Iranian Army "smashed" a commando battalion stationed near Fakeh on the southern front.

Intimidation Charge — The 11 May explosion at a Kuwait City office was the latest in a series of attacks coinciding with the superpowers' efforts to gain a "military foothold" in the region, according to an *Al-Qabas* editorial cited by KUNA. The paper speculated that the "perpetrators" and "those marketing protection plans" work for the "same employer."

Lebanon

A Syrian soldier was killed and two others were wounded by a car bomb explosion in West Beirut 13 May, Beirut radio announced. A Syrian military official told AFP that the blast was

aimed at a Syrian general who had passed the booby-trapped car moments earlier on his morning jog.

On the political level, Lebanese sources in Damascus cited by QNA said the recent Syrian-Lebanese talks resulted in an agreement to "freeze" Prime Minister Rashid Karami's resignation pending consultations aimed at removing the reasons that led to it. President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoys reportedly proposed that Karami be asked to form an expanded government with representatives of all parties and movements, including religious leaders.

Libya-Chad

The Chadian ambassador to Paris dismissed JANA's claim that Libyan troops have handed over positions in northern Chad to Goukouni Oueddei's forces, AFP reported. He viewed JANA's announcement as a "trick" aimed at camouflaging the Libyan occupation of the Tibesti region.

Pakistan-DRA Relations

The Afghan charge was summoned to receive a "strong protest" over two "unprovoked" air attacks on Pakistani territory 4 and 5 May, Karachi radio reported. Two people were killed and six wounded when Afghan aircraft carried out separate bombing raids on north Waziristan and the Arandu area of Chitral District.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Iraq, Libya Hold Talks To Discuss Relations

JN121631 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
10 May 87 p 1

[By 'Atif 'Awdah]

[Text] Rabat — *Al-Ittihad* has learned that meetings on the security level took place between Iraq and Libya in the past few weeks as part of the process of bilateral contacts to restore diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The sources said the contacts between the two countries began following the positive remarks by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi on the Iraq-Iran war and were carried out in stages. A senior official, Ibrahim al-Bashadi, attended for Libya, while the Iraqis were represented by Fadi al-Barak. It was agreed to shift the talks to the political level.

Al-Ittihad has learned that the topics on the agenda include the stand toward the Iraq-Iran war, the restoration of relations between the two countries, and the status of the Libyan opposition in Iraq. Libya also informed Iraq it stopped supplying arms to Iran a long time ago.

A meeting at the foreign ministers' level may be held in the next few days that will be a prelude to the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries and to the exchange of visits by senior officials.

'All' Arab States Reportedly Agree on Summit

JN130745 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Al-Sharqiah, 13 May (WAKH) — *Al-Khalij* published in Al-Sharqiah today quoted a senior Arab League official as saying all the Arab countries have agreed on the convocation of the 13th Arab summit in Riyadh at the beginning of September. In a statement to the newspaper, the Arab official affirmed that the efforts of several Arab sides to narrow bilateral Arab differences produced limited results sufficient to remove the obstacles hampering the expected Arab summit. The Arab official, who did not wish to be named, specified the relations between Syria and the PLO as the only obstacle that remains unresolved. He said efforts by the USSR, Algeria, and Libya will be enough to surmount this, especially since Syria saw important, positive points in the recent PNC resolutions.

The other obstacle hampering the convocation of the summit, the Moroccan-Algerian dispute, was resolved after King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid had agreed only on the convocation of the summit during the meeting arranged by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. As far as the Western Sahara issue is concerned, there was no major breakthrough except that the two sides pledged to avoid being drawn into any military confrontation.

DER SPIEGEL Interviews PFLP's George Habash

DW121301 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
11 May 87 pp 150-151

[Interview with PFLP leader George Habash by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] *Spiegel*: Dr Habash: You succeeded in pressing the PLO and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, to follow your hard-line course. 'Arafat has given up his relations with moderate states like Egypt and Jordan in favor of PLO unity. The PLO was ousted from Cairo for that. Are you now content?

Habash: The PNC in Algiers really made the important decision to give up its relations with Egypt, the Camp David country. Naturally, I am happy about it. Moreover, we have again made the PLO an organization fighting for the liberation of Palestine from imperialism and Zionism.

Spiegel: 'Arafat has proven more than once that he is an excellent tactician. Do you think he will adhere to the Algiers decisions?

Habash: Naturally every decision we have made commits and binds every one of us, regardless of whether it is the PLO chairman or the chief of another group who has agreed to it. We all — without exception — must not forget the bitter experience of the last 4 years.

Spiegel: You mean the bloody conflicts among Palestinian groups?

Habash: That is exactly what I mean. The bloody and murderous conflicts erupted because some believed they could ignore the decisions of the PNC and pursue their own policy. If 'Arafat or others try it once more, the same murderous process will start all over again.

Spiegel: Will Palestinian unity ever be achieved without reconciliation between Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad?

Habash: You are right. As long as 'Arafat quarrels with Al-Asad, reconciliation will remain unfinished. Syria is, for Palestinians, an irreplaceable, natural fighting comrade. We need Syrian like a lung to breathe with. A Palestinian revolution without Syria is impossible. Therefore, we will try to achieve reconciliation between Al-Asad and 'Arafat.

Spiegel: Is your PFLP strong enough for that?

Habash: We will try to achieve that reconciliation together with our Soviet comrades, with the Libyan revolutionary leader Al-Qadhafi, and with our Algerian and South Yemen fighting comrades. The more than 4 and 1/2 years of conflict between the PLO and Syria must come to an end, otherwise there will be no lasting and just peace in the region.

Spiegel: Does the will to achieve it exist at all?

Habash: It is demanded in the interests of both parties. We must realize our only enemy is Israel and Zionism, and the only goal of Israel is the total annihilation of the PLO. To face that enemy, we all must stick together to be able to endure the struggle.

Spiegel: The annulment of the agreement between 'Arafat and King Husayn, which you imposed on 'Arafat in Algiers, had negative consequences. Husayn pursued his own policy toward Israel — without the PLO. He is said to have spoken to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at a secret meeting about joint action in a possible international peace conference.

Habash: One thing ought to be clear to all. Regardless of what conference is held — be it an international conference, preparatory talks, or a UN forum — without us Palestinians nothing can be negotiated and nothing can be achieved.

Spiegel: What does that mean?

Habash: It means we Palestinians must be represented by a PLO delegation.

Spiegel: Could the Palestinians also take part in an Egyptian, Jordanian, or Syrian delegation?

Habash: Listen carefully! There is only one single Palestinian delegation, and it will be determined by the PLO. It will be an absolutely independent delegation that has nothing to do with other delegations.

Spiegel: King Husayn does not take the PLO seriously anymore. Do you not fear your inflexible policy will force him to make an agreement with Israel, with you getting nowhere?

Habash: We would not be surprised if an agreement were achieved. But then it must be clear to the king that he bears the responsibility for it. I do not want to say more about it. He knows exactly what I mean by that.

Spiegel: Does all that mean the PLO wants to solve the Palestinian problem only militarily?

Habash: It means the PLO has stopped betting on the Camp David policy and an American proposal for a solution. From now on U.S. Middle East policy will be opposed.

Spiegel: Why would there be no political solution anymore?

Habash: Even if an international conference for the solution of the Middle East problem were achieved, only the Arabs would be the losers under the current circumstances. They are strategically and militarily in the weaker position vis-a-vis Israel. Under these miserable circumstances we will never achieve an independent Palestinian state at such an international conference. We must eventually pursue realpolitik.

Spiegel: According to realpolitik principles the Arabs must eventually realize that for 40 years they have suffered only military defeats from Israel.

Habash: That is correct. Therefore, we — the PFLP — say all the time it is senseless and hopeless to wait to get something from Israel, because Israel is politically and militarily in a much better position. It has occupied territories of three Arab countries. Why should it suddenly make concessions at an international conference?

Spiegel: So it means the Palestinians will again enter the vicious circle of violence and counterviolence — no reconciliation with Israel?

Habash: Only through armed struggle can Palestine be liberated. Only through armed struggle can a Palestinian state be achieved. There is no other way.

DFLP's Hawatimah Discusses PLO Unity, Syrian Ties *JN120715 Kuwait AL-ANBA in Arabic 9 May 87 p 23*

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by correspondent Mahmud Khalil in Algiers — date not given]

[Excerpts][Khalil] Now that Palestinian unity has been attained and the unifying PNC session, so long awaited by so many, is over, how do you, as DFLP secretary general, assess the Palestinian, Arab, and international state of affairs for the forthcoming stage?

[Hawatimah] Let us first put on record that the realistic national unionist policy has triumphed and that the policy of the Amman accord and the divisionist policy experienced by the Palestinian arena were defeated.

The DFLP and the Democratic Alliance constituted an effective force to secure victory for the policy calling for a national consensus. We upheld the PLO's incremental program, abided by the resolutions unanimously adopted, and called on all those who deviated from these resolutions to reaffirm their abidance by them. Victory was finally achieved following persistent struggle and direct action over a period of 4 years of destructive divisions in the Palestinian arena. The line of action upholding national unity has had the upper hand while the line of action upholding the search for meeting points with the U.S. solutions was defeated.

Our people, the Arab nation, and all our friends in the world have now seen the emergence of a united PLO which enjoys the power to adopt independent decisions on the national and pan-Arab level under the canopy of the unitary PNC's program. The PLO has succeeded in adopting a realistic and national political and organizational line of action which evinced great maturity and a responsible approach to solutions. This line of action has also permitted a democratic and organizational reform of PLO institutions, particularly the PLO Central Council, the new PLO Executive Committee, and the establishment of a daily collective command.

These achievements have made us move toward a new and direct battle, the battle of safeguarding this national program and of defining all practical, daily, and tactical missions in accordance with this program to prevent any faction from undertaking

anything that does not conform to this program and that would ultimately sow the seeds of discord once again in the Palestinian arena. All factions must abide by this national program in their political moves and alliances.

[Khalil] But this program has displeased many parties.

[Hawatimah] No sooner had this program been adopted than a systematic campaign started against it to undermine it and to encourage forces within the PLO to deviate from it. We sensed this through the systematic counteroffensives that Washington has been waging against this program by claiming that the resolutions of the unitary PNC session are a negative factor that has weakened peace efforts in the Middle East. The campaigns continued and were directed against one party in the Palestinian national movement and in the PLO command to have this party deviate from the unitary program and resume its search for points of agreement with Reagan's plan and with bilateral and separate solutions, and to make it once again realign itself with Arab regional axes. This counteroffensive seeks to undermine the unitary program and to capitalize on the reactions of others who will once again rush toward the policy of division and adventure. We in the DFLP have accurately analyzed the state of affairs in the Palestinian arena and have stated that the balance of power has developed over the past 15 years in such a manner that the fate of the arena can only be decided in accordance with the agreement that was concluded between the Fatah Movement and the DFLP. From this premise, we will be the true guardians of the unitary program and we will not permit anyone to deviate from it. We will mobilize all the sound and active forces to the side of our struggle for safeguarding this unitary program, acting in accordance with it, and defining all missions and duties within the framework of the new PLO command. The bitter past experience has shown that Palestinian affairs cannot be run by one party alone. The brothers in the Fatah Movement have tried this and found that they were proceeding alone. But when the agreement between Fatah and the DFLP was reached in accordance with the 16 March 1986 document, eight Palestinian factions, representing the majority of our people, responded to the invitation to hold a dialogue. The forces which tried to hamper the progress of national unity were unable to run against the current, and were forced to join the unity march.

I made a lengthy statement to your newspaper *Al-Anba* 1 and 1/2 months ago in which I said the PNC would convene a unitary session, that we would achieve national unity before Ramadan, and that the vehicle of unity had started and would reach its goal. I based my ideas at that time on the Tunis document, which came as a result of the Prague statement and the Moscow agreement and after more than 14 months of dialogue between the DFLP and Fatah. This document called for convening the PNC session. There was no other faction with us. Our confidence stemmed from our accurate knowledge of the balance of power in the Palestinian arena and its developments. The fate of the Palestinian arena is now in the hands of Fatah and the DFLP. When they agree, things will move toward a national stand hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and all capitulatory solutions, and national unity will be achieved. But when they disagree, what took place during the Amman PNC session will be repeated and its ill-omined political results will also be repeated.

We must safeguard the unified program by close cooperation within the framework of the PLO's new leadership to allow the new policy approved by the unitary session to work — this national policy, which is hostile to imperialism and which is based on accurate knowledge of the realities of the age. This realistic policy, based on a full awareness of the Palestinian, Arab, and international balance of powers, was supported to form effective nationalist and unionist forces and to achieve an independent policy away from regional Arab axes. Under this unified policy and the democratization of the PLO's institutions, we must wage the battle anew by attracting the support of the Palestinian, Arab, and international forces to achieve our people's rights.

[Khalil] You said the unity achieved during the unitary session has placed you before a new battle; namely, safeguarding the Palestinian national program. You also talked about some features of this battle. Would you please further clarify these features?

[Hawatimah] Yes. The second big issue on our agenda is the continuation of our struggle to democratize the PLO's institutions and create true democracy within these institutions. This requires joint support for the unified program to enable the elected Central Council, the new PLO Executive Committee, and the collective leadership to play their role in protecting and implementing the unified program and the resolutions of the unitary session and carry out democratic reforms in the PLO's institutions. Over the past 23 years, many bureaucratic frameworks have been created. These corrupt frameworks should be eliminated because they are obstacles to the development of the revolution and the PLO's institutions. These institutions and the competent, proven, technical frameworks, chosen during the past difficult struggle, should be revived.

Our new battle is aimed at safeguarding the unified program, and this goal can be achieved only through discipline and joint effort to democratize the PLO's central, legislative, and executive bodies and to purge these institutions of the corrupt groups. If there had been no corrupt groups, the PLO would not have been split by an adventurist group and Fatah would not have been split at the hands of corrupt bureaucratic figures such as Abu al-Za'im, [Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah] and his partners. Without unity, the PLO will be blackmailed under the pressure of the United States and the other sides that exploit leftist slogans and want to eliminate the Palestinian factor.

[Khalil] Let us go back to our previous question, which noted that the unitary program attained during the PNC session has displeased many Arabs.

[Hawatimah] The PLO's unity has scared many pro-U.S. parties as was demonstrated by the many reactions among these circles. Washington found itself no longer able to claim it does not know the whereabouts of the PLO, whether it is in Amman, Damascus, Tunis, or Baghdad. Our Palestinian people, the Arab nation, and all our friends in the world cannot now claim that the PLO is not united. Middle East Arab countries can no longer claim they are in disagreement among themselves because there is no unified Palestinian representation. These Arab countries have even dared to submit this matter not only to the United States but also to the USSR and the other UN Security Council permanent

members, and to claim to them that they differ on the Palestinian issue because there is no such thing as a united Palestinian representation. This gloomy era no longer exists, an era during which attempts were made to undermine the PLO's unity and to polarize the Palestinian national movement along the Arab regional axes. The Palestinian giant rose once again from his slumber united within the framework of a united PLO and on the basis of a realistic national program that responds to the current requirements and acts positively in tipping the balance of power in our favor. Through the unity of the PLO, we have also restored unity to our people with all that this entails in terms of a broad resurgence, particularly in the occupied Palestinian territories and in the camps in Lebanon, as well as in the diaspora.

We would like to reaffirm here that we have shelved our destructive differences and hope this will be for good. We have restored the cohesion that used to exist among our people to have them rally once again around their strong and independent sole representative in the face of occupation and colonization; to have them exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state; and to enable our people in the camps and the diaspora to interact with the national revolutionary process that will lead us to repatriation, self determination, and the establishment of the independent state.

[Khalil] But what about the impact this unity will have on the official Arab level. In your opinion, how will the Arabs deal with this unity?

[Hawatimah] By achieving PLO unity, we have offered to our Arab nation a new positive factor that will enhance the Arabs common struggle for their central cause, the Palestinian cause. The Arab countries concerned over Palestinian and Arab rights now have the principal key that will open the door to the revival of Arab solidarity and to the convocation of an Arab summit. This will be based on a joint program to create a practical mechanism and thereby implement the Rabat, Baghdad and Fes summit resolutions toward a comprehensive, and just solution to the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question, as well as to contain and reject all forms of bilateral solutions and separate deals that can only be achieved at the expense of Palestinian and Arab rights. The biggest proof of this are the Camp David accords and, later, the Amman accord which sought to bring matters in line with Reagan's plan and the direct bilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] What about the impact this unity will have on the international level?

[Hawatimah] With the attainment of PLO unity we have offered an important weapon to all the Palestinian people's friends in the world such as the USSR, Nicaragua, all the democratic forces in Europe, and even within the United States itself that will enable them to activate their struggle on the international level for an international conference that will settle the Middle East issue and the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

[Khalil] It is well known there was great development in Palestinian-Syrian relations during the comprehensive dialogue and the PNC session. Some sides term this as a positive development. This development was crowned with the joint Soviet-

Syrian communique. Does this mean there will be an improvement in this relationship during the next stage?

[Hawatimah] We, in the DFLP, have a principled, firm and continuous policy based on setting aside all secondary differences for the sake of the differences with our main enemy — the occupation, the Zionist expansionism, and the U.S. unilateral, bilateral, or comprehensive solutions which arrogantly disavow our Palestinian people's rights. That is why we refused to become involved with any feud between the Palestinian revolution and any Arab country. We also refused involvement in any feud between the PLO and any Arab country, particularly Syria, because these relations have been dominated by much tension and irritation. This caused great damage to the supreme national and pan-Arab Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese and Arab interests.

These feuds were a great gift to Israel and U.S. imperialism. Consequently we were among those who remained patient and tackled all differences quietly and cooperatively. We recommended that our brothers in Fatah stop the feuds, look for a common denominator, and minimize differences no matter how big because we have great [duties] ahead. We are facing the Israeli occupation, the Zionist expansionism, and the arrogant U.S. solutions toward the Palestinian and Arab rights. They [Israelis] have the strongest army in the Middle East, which directs its oppressive fire at our people under occupation and in the camps, and at neighboring Arab peoples by striking at the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the PLO Headquarters at Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis. From this premise, it is incumbent to normalize relations between the PLO and all the Arab countries on the basis of the common denominator represented by the Algiers, Baghdad, Rabat and Fes resolutions.

We have been successful in this regard during the comprehensive dialogue and until this very moment, knowing that many expected the PNC session to become a demonstration against all the Arab countries. But the responsible, unitary, nationalist and realistic spirit governing the resolutions of joint action and Arab summit resolutions which deal with normalization of Palestinian-Arab and Arab-Arab relations, prevailed. That is why there was no negative reference to Palestinian-Syrian relations during the dialogue, the PNC session, and the work of the committees. We took big positive steps by calling on our brothers in Syria to reactivate the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in concurrence with our PNC session so we could accurately define our common commitments and consider them within the framework of the resolutions to be adopted by the five members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. At the same time, Syria's national and pan-Arab commitment, as well as the commitment of the Front's five members, would also be defined.

The resolutions of the unitary session were extremely precise in defining the Palestinian-Arab relations, particularly relations with the four countries neighboring our occupied homeland. The resolution dealing with Syria was complete and constructive in its call for correcting and building the Palestinian-Syrian alliances on the basis of joint struggle against the common enemy and the Arab summit resolutions. It also called for developing this alliance in a way that serves all the forces in the forward position against occupation, expansionism, the Camp David Accord, the Reagan plan, all U.S. solutions, in addition to unilateral and

bilateral deals, to guarantee the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese supreme national rights in particular, and the Arab supreme national rights in general.

[Khalil] In light of what you have said, do you expect this relationship to witness some relaxation. Do you expect a Palestinian-Syrian meeting to be held in Moscow under the Soviet Union's auspices?

[Hawatimah] We are all hoping for a thaw in Syrian-Palestinian relations on the basis of joint alliance against the common enemy and in accordance with the Arab summit resolutions. Based on this, we do not believe continued complication of PLO-Syrian relations is justifiable. After the abrogation of the Amman agreement, defining the bases of relations with Egypt, standing up against all forms of bilateral and unilateral solutions, and waging a struggle for a just solution during this stage, there is no single justification to keep relations suspended. The new Palestinian leadership presented a series of initiatives through many channels. This position was confirmed following the conclusion of the PNC session and during the first meeting of the new PLO Executive Committee. Many appeals have been made unanimously by our PNC to the brothers in Syria to correct and rebuild these relations on the basis of this alliance. The Palestinian sides, Libya, and the Soviet Union have been active in eliminating differences and rebuilding relations on even stronger bases to escalate struggle following the invasion of Lebanon and in the wake of the past 5 bitter years. Moreover, the possibility of holding Palestinian-Syrian meetings in other places such as Libya, Algeria, or Moscow is likely, though the brotherly dialogue is proceeding in a good and fast way. Therefore, we support the idea of holding the dialogue in Damascus between the new Executive Committee and Syrian brothers. We had proposed that the comprehensive PNC preparatory dialogue be held in Damascus and be topped by convening a unitary PNC session in Damascus. Now, after taking this great step, in accordance with the Algerian initiative and the friendly Arab and international efforts, all the factors necessary to ensure successful and fruitful dialogue between a united PLO and Damascus have become available.

Abu Nidal Interviewed by Kuwaiti Paper
PM121421 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 May 87 p 7

[Interview with Fatah-Revolutionary Council leader Sabri al-Banna, identified by his nom de guerre Abu Nidal, by Bashshar Salih in Algeria; date not given]

[Text] *Al-Qabas*: It has been rumored that you met with Abu 'Ammar [PLO Chairman 'Arafat] on the sidelines of the PNC. How true are these reports?

Abu Nidal: When the question of dialogue among the Palestinian factions was raised we knew the person concerned with the dialogue was Yasir 'Arafat. After all, there were no major differences with the other factions and these factions were not in a position to make decisions. It was obvious, therefore, that the dialogue would be with 'Arafat directly. I should point out here that the dialogue had two aspects, one involving the six organizations, and the other involving 'Arafat's leadership.

Al-Qabas: Does this mean you did meet with Abu 'Ammar?

Abu Nidal: Yes, meetings were held to initiate the dialogue with a view to achieving a new formula on the basis of unification. In other words, there was a PLO unification conference, not just the 18th session of the PNC. Therefore, a dialogue had to be held with 'Arafat not in his personal capacity but in his capacity as PLO chairman and as the person who had absolute control of the PLO affairs at that point.

Al-Qabas: In the past you adopted a certain attitude toward the PLO. Do these meetings mean you now recognize the PLO again?

Abu Nidal: As you know, we are a part of the broad Fatah Movement and our position was a purely Fatah position. We took a stand not regarding the PLO, but regarding the line that dominated it, turning it from a national front with its establishments and offices into a private party taking full control. When we looked up the meaning of fascism we found it to mean absolute rule, hence the conflict between the two Fatah lines — the Fatah revolutionary line, which we pursued and we represent, and the PLO leadership line, including the other organizations and factions that followed it.

So the stand we took was not a stand against the PLO. We strove in the past to struggle and then achieve unity on the basis of the PLO, to build a more or less broad patriotic front and then develop it into a united patriotic front on pan-Arab grounds, not dropping pan-Arab considerations in relation to the so-called independence of Palestinian national decisions.

Al-Qabas: For years you had refused to hold a dialogue and meet with Abu 'Ammar. The question, to be specific, is: Who changed, you or Abu 'Ammar?

Abu Nidal: Many things have changed. There has been a change in the Arab struggle situation. There is official Arab fragmentation and the Arab masses are tormented psychologically as human beings. The instrument linked to imperialism has become effective in dividing our ranks as Palestinians and as Arab progressive forces. Then there is a call for Palestinian fratricide. These are the main changes. There can be no doubt that we, too, have changed but within the natural process of change in the struggle of our people and the organization we have the honor of belonging to. We have changed in the direction of drawing up a unity program for the Fatah Movement, in the right direction. We have changed in favor of the need to deal with the official Arab and Palestinian realities and we realize we must tackle the question of objective unity. However, we have not sensed any change in Yasir 'Arafat. There has been no change in the course, mentality, means of achieving objectives, alliances, and indecision. To this moment we do not feel anything is likely to change in the PLO's leadership. There has undoubtedly been some development in our organizational life and in our understanding of unity and of our people's fighters from all organizations. Our organization is honored to have made a modest contribution to that.

Al-Qabas: A death sentence was issued against you a few years ago. Do the meetings you have mentioned mean a new leaf has been turned or that bygones are bygones?

Abu Nidal: In 1974, when they decided to expel us and many of our comrades from the organization, that move was bound to be accompanied by a large-scale campaign including the death sentence you speak of. The target was the democratic revolutionary trend in the movement. The aim was to close the doors to any development in the movement. So, we do not say bygones are bygones. We say we have all learned good lessons from what happened. It was not a question of a death sentence against one person or another. The target was an organizational and political line which insisted on our people's rights on firm revolutionary and pan-Arab foundations. When we sit with 'Arafat and his colleagues, it is the masses who should ask: Who was wrong, and who was right?

Al-Qabas: You had an experience with the group which led the split [from Fatah] in 1983. What are the causes of estrangement between you and that group?

Abu Nidal: I will try to be as brief as possible about our relations with the so-called revolutionary uprising led by brothers Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa], Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, Ilyas Shufani, and so forth. We thought it was a serious attempt to confirm Fatah's main program and by-laws on the basis of past experience, particularly in Lebanon, but it soon became clear that we were the victims of a plot with suspect dimensions and links. Although it had an Arab cover, we believe it went beyond that, hence the estrangement between us and the gradual disintegration of the group. Comrades Abu Salih and Qadri went to their homes and so did hundreds of fighters. The majority joined us. There is an ongoing dialogue with scores of others to shift them back to their natural places.

This is not a defamation attempt, but talking about that group leads us to say we found ourselves victims of the Zionist Mapai Party and several intelligence services. It is a long story.

Al-Qabas: These are serious accusations. This means sentencing many people to political or even physical death.

Abu Nidal: It was that group which sentenced to death our revolution in general with all its contradictions. It raised the slogan of Palestinian-Palestinian infighting. I ask: How could any Palestinian under any pretext dare to destroy parts of the camps over the heads of the women, children, and elderly people there? It was that attitude the Zionist Amal gangs used as a cover to besiege our people's camps with the aim of destroying and annihilating them. Furthermore, there are some in that group who think they can create a special situation emulating the PLO Executive Committee chairman when we all know the Abu 'Ammar case is a special case that cannot be easily repeated, a case rejected by our people and organization.

To say we have theoretically condemned their line and their links is logical and natural, but we will not be dragged into undemocratic conflicts with them or anyone else.

Al-Qabas: You have participated in the Palestinian dialogue but not in the PNC. Were there preconditions imposed on you and rejected by you or was that a result of Arab and international interference?

Abu Nidal: We came here with two programs. One was the Tripoli document program on a Libyan-Algerian initiative and with the support of President Chadli [Bendjedid] and Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi. The dialogue was completed in Algiers by the six organizations in light of this document. The PFLP-GC did not attend.

In that respect, we thought 'Arafat would accept this specific program that gave him a wide margin for Arab and international maneuvers. We imagined that an awakening of conscience had occurred in 'Arafat or that, through him, the ranks of our people's fighters would unite so they could take the position of leadership and decisionmaking in the PLO with special regard for 'Arafat as a person, but this never happened.

No preconditions were imposed on us and we did not withdraw because we rejected such preconditions. We also did not make any demands and did not withdraw because such demands were rejected. No, we refused to participate when 'Arafat rejected change in the PLO structure.

In addition to the matter of Palestinian unification, we came here with a program for the unification of Fatah. We said in it that Fatah's Central Committee leadership should be in charge of funds and politics and that Fatah's fighters should be in charge of the arms and organization. We called for immediate unity that would help protect our people and enhance the cause of the Palestinian revolution, and we said we should benefit from the past differences, which forced us to depart from the democratic course.

Al-Qabas: But it has been said warnings about your presence at the PNC session had something to do with your boycott of the PNC.

Abu Nidal: We have abundant information on Washington's contacts with a number of Arab states and with the PLO leadership in the person of Yasir 'Arafat. The administration contacted some nationalist Arab states. The U.S. Administration wanted to liquidate the Palestinian cause on the pretext of fighting "terrorism." It must be said here that there was some response in return for some temporary gains, which we do not think will last long. As regards Washington's public messages, they have reached us just as they reached 'Arafat. We advise the United States to think about restoring its prestige as a superpower with a degree of respect instead of indulging in ganglike actions without any consideration for human development and international conflicts.

We do not believe the U.S. messages will frighten states that defend their independence and support the pan-Arab cause of Palestine.

Al-Qabas: This means the war between you and the U.S. Administration is continuing.

Abu Nidal: We do not seek this war. It is the Zionist influence in the U.S. Administration that has imposed this war. The degree of independent Palestinian decisionmaking determines the possibility of abandoning this conflict. But if Washington insists on not stopping its direct and indirect interference in our affairs — as in the case of what has happened in Lebanon and the raids on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah — we will not allow any tampering that would prevent our people from regaining their national rights from the sea to the river, and we will continue the confrontation. We cannot hold the United States neutral at a time when it does not take a neutral stand. What we want and hope for is that Washington realizes how important its interests are in our countries.

Al-Qabas: The United States holds your organization responsible for a number of operations. Who hit the Marines headquarters in Lebanon and would this kind of operation continue if the U.S. policy remained as it is?

Abu Nidal: The strike on the Marines headquarters was carried out by the patriotic and Islamic forces in self-defense and because these [Marine] forces became occupation forces. As regards the continuation of attacks on U.S. interests, this is a right linked to Washington's ability to learn from past lessons. In this connection, we wish to point out here that the U.S. Administration is still pursuing its old policies through threats to certain patriotic Arab states and through protest notes requesting the suspension of aid to the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. We consider that to be a flagrant interference in the most internal affairs of independent nations. We advise the U.S. Administration to stop these methods which, if continued, would generate utter hostility toward U.S. interests in our countries. That is our position.

Al-Qabas: Do you feel the United States is pursuing you. Do you feel you are continuously a target of the United States?

Abu Nidal: There can be no doubt that the United States, with its numerous bodies and the bodies allied with it, is doing that openly and secretly. Washington mistakenly believes that, by dealing a blow to the organization to which I belong, to me personally, or to some of my colleagues, it could plant despair in Palestine, this small part of Al-Sham [old Greater Syria] or drive this part of the Arab homeland toward surrender. If the United States, which has immense resources and free control of a big part of the world and which also has thousands of intelligence centers, succeeds in achieving some of its objectives, this would not change anything. The Zionist-British plot in this era taught us, through the Al-Qassami experience [reference to the revolution led by Shaykh 'Izz al-Din al-Qassami in Palestine], that a revolution could suffer a blow through the martyrdom of its symbol but it certainly does not end with the martyrdom of that symbol.

Al-Qabas: Have you ever fallen into the nets of these instruments?

Abu Nidal: Without doubt, and I say to those who are behind U.S. computer analysis that the sincere sons of our Arab nation are the ones who give me the protection I enjoy. That is in addition to the support and care enjoyed by this organization.

Many things have happened in the course of America's pursuit of me, but it is not good to mention them. We have learned from experience that man is the decisive factor in battles and in all kinds of conflicts and that he is capable of defeating the techniques of progress just as we have defeated the U.S. computer. The U.S. Administration deludes itself if it thinks it will accomplish what it is out to accomplish. It has not been able to achieve any of its declared objectives at this level. An Arab cannot be bought with U.S. dollars. It is strange for a person such as President Reagan to stand up at more than one news conference to curse a Palestinian patriot who brandishes his gun for the sake of his people.

The charge of terrorism, which the U.S. Administration uses as a pretext to carry out all kinds of abominable acts, was born of an internal Palestinian environment and then of an Arab environment and then it developed to become evidence in the hands of Washington. The Zionist Mossad played a major part in this. If we go back to the history books and reference material on the Crusades we will find that the very same charge was made against Saladin and other Muslim and Arab leaders and that the same phrases used then are used now.

President Hafiz al-Asad has called for an international conference to define terrorism and identify the forces of terrorism. We add our voice to that of President Hafiz al-Asad so the entire world will know who the terrorists are, who the murderers of nations are, and who the defenders of women and children are.

We told the United States and the Zionist entity that the attack on the PLO Headquarters in Tunisia would not go unpunished and we have punished them for that. We also made calculations for immediate retaliation in the event of a new aggression. We expected the aggression this time to be against Algeria because, under the leadership of its president and party, it embraced the Palestinian people of all trends. I believe the United States and the Zionist states are against all the Palestinians. I can understand why I am wanted by the United States, but I cannot understand why Yasir 'Arafat is wanted by the United States. They consider every Palestinian to be a terrorist and I say that the answer to that is unity of our forces and ranks against the terrorism aimed at us all by Washington and organized by the Zionist administration in Tel Aviv.

Al-Qabas: After years of secret activity you have begun to embark on overt public activity like others, but it is clear from what you say that you still favor the method labeled by Washington as "terrorism."

Abu Nidal: We have not and never will come out in the open. We have just one branch for public political activity dictated by the growing and expanding role of the organization and the support of the masses and the national and pan-Arab forces, but this in no way means making our organization public. The U.S. Administration should not entertain such dreams at all. This organization will remain a sword hanging over the necks of the enemies of our people until they retreat, and it will remain a banner in the hands of our people until the defeat of the Zionist state.

We have not committed any acts of terrorism and we have not committed aggression against anyone, but we say we will retaliate to any aggression anywhere in the world against any Palestinian or Arab struggler.

Al-Qabas: You have been accused of mounting operations which hurt innocent people such as the Italian operation, the Austrian airport operation, and the Egyptian airliner hijacked from Greece to Malta. Views have varied regarding these operations, some maintaining that they were a gain for the Palestinian cause while others said they resulted in a loss for the Palestinian cause. In the future, will the targets be dealt with by the same old methods or will there be other methods? If a Palestinian commander is killed would the reply be absolute and involve the same previous method?

Abu Nidal: The U.S. Administration charges that we are behind scores of world organizations responsible for a series of previous operations which were open to question and prevarication. That portrays us as leaders of a vast front consisting of factions of various trends and leanings, which is not true. Here we do not feel we have to state our position regarding the operation or operations in question. It has been our custom to announce the operations carried out by our organization only and it has been our custom not to deny charges that we were responsible for one operation or another. For example, we believe the French Government should provide protection for all Palestinians and Arabs living on French territory in accordance with current laws. That is why we believe there must be immediate retaliation when the Zionist Mossad violates these laws and traditions. We are an organization that selects its targets with extreme care and accuracy and that does not act haphazardly. So when martyr Majid Abu Sharar was killed in Italy by the Mossad we had to hit that body, and on Italian territory. If they, Italians, want to maintain their security and reputation they should protect the Palestinians and Arabs on their territory just as they protect the Zionists.

When 80 Palestinian and Arab martyrs are killed in Tunisia — none of them having participated in any fighting — we deem it our duty to avenge them, particularly since the U.S. Administration, which contributed to that aggression, did not express any regret about what happened.

Al-Qabas: You said in previous meetings that you cooperate with some revolutionary violence factions such as the Red Brigades, the Communist Cells in Belgium, and the Irish [Republican] Army. Is that cooperation still continuing?

Abu Nidal: We believe the world is in an acute state of suffocation, and we in the Arab world in turn suffer the same thing, but ours is the result of social, economic, and educational backwardness whereas in Europe it is the result of hegemony by one group over other groups. What we have in common with the forces referred to is the fact that they voiced an opinion regarding the Zionist movement, even before World War II. We do not interfere in the affairs of the Irish at all but we cooperate with them against Zionism, which wants to control the world and which has taken control of Palestine by uprooting its people. The

Irish do not tell us what to do and we do not interfere in their affairs.

Al-Qabas: But it has been said that you help these forces and set up training bases for them in return for facilities they give you in the European states.

Abu Nidal: If the U.S. Administration were to provide us with some means of defending our people we would accept gratefully. We accept assistance from any organization, person, or state provided that it is unconditional assistance. As regards the exaggeration of our relations with these organizations, I believe the aim is to instigate the European states against us. Here I must say there are no problems between us and the European states, which are now beginning to lean toward neutrality toward our conflict with the Zionist state, and that includes France. But I tell France this commitment would not continue if an aggression is committed against any member of our people. We would retaliate strongly and in the same place, even if it involved the PLO representative in Paris, Ibrahim al-Sus. I say this knowing that Al-Sus is one of those most opposed to our organization; but that is one thing, and any attack by the Mossad on any member of our people is quite another, because any such attack is rejected and unacceptable. If we are hawks, we are Palestine's hawks protecting its doves from the crows of others.

Al-Qabas: We understand that there is coordination between you and the Hizballah in Lebanon. The specific question is: What is your opinion of the kidnapping of foreigners and kidnapping operations in general whether in Lebanon or other countries?

Abu Nidal: We as an organization and I personally are proud of the strong, sincere relationship with the Hizballah, especially scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, because of the stand he adopted toward the camps war. I would say this stand will remain an unpaid debt on our people's shoulders; we will always seek to develop this alliance with this party regardless of some viewpoints and ideological differences on one side or another.

As for kidnapping foreign citizens, I must stress we have not heard that the Hizballah is the party responsible for these acts and I must also stress that we have nothing whatsoever to do with such acts. I believe the responsibility for these acts lies in the hands of other specific organizations for reasons unknown to us. I must also state that we are against a policy of kidnapping. The proof of this is that if we agreed with such a policy we would have kidnapped half the world's leaders.

Al-Qabas: You talked earlier about Al-Sus and said you will respond if he is attacked. The Palestinians have accused your organization of killing some directors of PLO offices in the past, and the truth held against you is that your organization is hitting some Palestinian targets. You are saying the inter-Palestinian conflict is the business of Palestinians and you do not accept any foreign hand raised against any Palestinian. Do you give yourself the sole right to kill the Palestinians?

Abu Nidal: We have been accused in different ways, the most distinctive of which is: Who conceded to us the right to be judges and executioners for the Palestinian people? We did not

and will not aim our guns at any Palestinian or Arab, whatever their political inclinations. Therefore I stress once again that those we executed were those who negotiated and established direct relations with the Zionist Mossad under the banners of the Peace Society or the Zionist General Peled.

In many cases, these accusations were falsely and slanderously raised against our organization since many of those killed were killed by Zionist hands. We did not deviate from the movement's program or the Palestinian National Charter, both of which we adhere to, because they include principles that cannot be developed or replaced. We have been oppressed in this respect since the accusations and questions should in fact have been directed at those who sat with the Zionist forces, which are hostile to our people's aspirations. Therefore, it is the masses who can arbitrate between us.

Confusion took place between what was wrong and right and the circle expanded; therefore, they wanted a hook to hang their mistakes on, and our organization was chosen. But that hook has now collapsed. Therefore I would say we are responsible for killing spies for the Zionist Mossad but we have done no harm at all to intellectuals and proponents of views. We did not fire at those who raised the banner of settlement but in fact united with them in the fighting trenches to defend our people.

Al-Qabas: Shim'on Peres was standing next to 'Isam al-Sartawi when you fired at him. Why did you not direct your bullets at Peres instead of Al-Sartawi?

Abu Nidal: We did not and still do not assess Shim'on as being more dangerous than Al-Sartawi because it was Al-Sartawi who wanted to open Acre from within [Arabic saying], but Peres is the one fighting from outside. This is the philosophical side of it. As for why we did not kill Peres, it was just a technical matter. We have to imagine how this organization managed to reach Al-Sartawi amid many security procedures. Our main objective was to kill Al-Sartawi. The other objective was to kill Peres but we technically could not achieve both objectives together.

Al-Qabas: Questions were raised linking the assassination attempt against Israeli Ambassador in London Shlomo Argov and the invasion of Lebanon. Did your organization carry out this operation or did it not, and how can you explain the link between both incidents?

Abu Nidal: A lot has been said in this regard and we have clarified our position toward this matter. Yes, our organization carried out the attempt in question. A conference for the representative of the Zionist Mossad was held in London with a view to carrying out a series of terrorist operations against our revolution. Politically, no one would imagine that killing an Israeli intelligence officer would lead to a military invasion constituting two-thirds of the Israeli Army to occupy vast areas of Lebanon. We do not believe so, but the Zionist enemy wanted to use this as an excuse. Regrettably many Palestinian officials and some Arabic speakers responded to this allegation, which was demolished by the events. In this regard, we do not believe the reason for France's occupation of Algeria, which lasted nearly 130 years, was a slap directed by the Algerian wali at the French

ambassador. Algeria was occupied for a colonialist objective, which subsequent events proved.

Al-Qabas: During recent years, the war between you and the United States has reached a peak. Did developments during that war make you chose the attitude of the doves rather than the hawks?

Abu Nidal: The matter here is complicated and we all know President al-Asad long ago raised the theory of strategic balance. We believe all forces must unite to participate in achieving this program. We believe our organization has seriously sought to participate in this because the strategic balance is not only based on increasing the number of fighters or possessing more advanced military weapons, but also on possessing self-created and objective factors from the revolution's forces in general.

This is because we believe we have the right to escalate the conflict with the Zionist entity to participate in this strategic balance. But to say we retreated, this is unlikely if not impossible since the conflict holds numerous forms and each phase has its own circumstances and requirements. Therefore, the camps war and the new invasion which bears the name "Amal", which has nothing at all to do with the Shi'ah and Shi'ites because we are the sons of 'Ali and his followers, prompt us to direct all our efforts in this direction to spare our people from massacres.

Al-Qabas: Some targets were hit in the past and questions were raised with regard to your organization. Your name was linked to what was called the imposing of "wergild" on some Arab countries. The question is: If the PLO is receiving aid from the Arab states, where do you receive your aid to carry out these large-scale big operations?

Abu Nidal: Undoubtedly we possess an economic independence, which we know is now being monitored by the the U.S. Administration, its European allies, and their tools in the Arab region. We believe we have the right to take back some of our people's rights from oil and natural gas and we prefer democratic methods since this Arab land belongs to every Arab and not to any one group in one country or another.

Hence I would say we were forced to pursue certain methods which, we admit, were undemocratic, but we were in fact left with no choice. We hope some of the Arabs who speak Arabic and those whose swords should side with the sons of their nation, not the Zionists, will listen to us now. We reject those who say: Our hearts are with you and our swords are with the Umayyads.

On the level of the PLO, we all know its chairman has imposed absolute control over the Palestinian national fund as well as all the resources of the Fatah Central Committee. We are the only organization whose martyrs were excluded from the Palestinian national fund up until now. We are the only Arab organization which offered 60 martyrs [word illegible] in the Al-Rashidiyah war, as Mr Nayif Hawatimah knows more than anyone else.

I do not want to talk about the factional side of the organization but would leave the informers in Arab embassies in our people's camps to talk about this matter.

Al-Qabas: There are those who accuse us of moving the gun quickly from one shoulder to another. Is the reason for this political developments or the ideological and political instability in the Arab region?

Abu Nidal: The question indicates what is actually intended. The gun did not move; this gun will always remain pointed in the right direction. When we allied ourselves with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq we did not abandon our alliance with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Syria. These stands were distorted and it was natural in 1982 and through our understanding of strategic balance to stand also by the side of the nationalist regime in Syria and back its stands voluntarily and without collecting a price since this is part of our pan-Arab duty, because we are certainly nationalist Arabs in the humanitarian, existential, progressive, and socialist sense.

As for our other alliances regarding the honorable progressive, pan-Arab, and Islamic forces, they will remain as they are. We

are with everyone who carries the gun to fight the Zionist entity. Thus this talk does not apply to us at all. I know there is a Palestinian-Arab-international media machine whose objective is to distort our organization widely and successively.

There are those who call us the new "Arafatists," which is not true. There are also those who are astonished by our organization's attitude. We have the right to ask: What is this astonishment for? We are an organization that was formed from within the ranks of this people to defend it, expecting no reward.

There are those who imagined that our fighting would transform the Palestinians in general into a faction. We said: Is it intended that we become a faction, so it would be recorded against our people at the end of the 20th century that its first leader was Yasir 'Arafat? Certainly this will not take place at all since Palestine is the Arab song and the Arab heart; it is the Islamic miracle.

KUWAIT

Daily Links Downtown Explosion to Superpowers*LD130937 Kuwait KUNA in English 0851 GMT 13 May 87*

[Text] Kuwait, May 13 (KUNA) — A Kuwaiti newspaper Wednesday linked an explosion in downtown Kuwait last Monday to efforts by superpowers to obtain military presence in the volatile Gulf region.

Al-Qabas said the blast, which killed one man and caused extensive damage to a travel agent's office, was the latest in a series of unjustifiable attacks against Kuwait and its vital interests.

"...Attacks have been deliberately timed to coincide with efforts made by superpowers to acquire a military foothold in our region under the guise of protecting us from greater evil," the paper said in an editorial.

The paper left open the possibility that "perpetrators of the attacks and those marketing protection plans were working for the same employer."

Describing the perpetrators as "superficial," the paper stressed that Kuwait would not be intimidated into throwing itself in the lap of one big power or another.

Foreign Minister Comments on Saudi Visit*LD121636 Kuwait KUNA in English 1238 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Kuwait, May 12 (KUNA) — Deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah said today that his yesterday's short visit to Saudi Arabia came in response to a request from his highness the amir.

"H.H. the amir entrusted me with conveying a verbal message to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia", Shaykh Sabah told reporters. The message, he added, deals with the recent developments in the Arabian Gulf region and the Arab situation in general. Shaykh Sabah pointed out that he conveyed a verbal message to H.H. the amir over the visits to each of Algeria, Morocco, France and Britain by the Saudi monarch.

Shaykh Sabah returned home late last night following a few-hour visit to the kingdom.

Upon arrival in Riyadh yesterday Shaykh Sabah met with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and discussed with him bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Minister Urges Producers to Honor OPEC Agreement*LD121934 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi said that OPEC has overcome the critical period, which stood in the way of the success of its latest agreement, thanks to the good imple-

mentation of the agreement by member countries and cooperation from several oil producers outside the organization in the last 3 months. While answering KUNA on the extent of the success of the latest OPEC agreement, he explained that Kuwait believes this success should not make us forget the importance of adhering to the agreement during the remaining period of this year, whether in relation to prices or the production ceiling of each member state. This is, in the interest of producers, whether OPEC members or not, and consumers in developing and industrial countries.

PDRY

People's Council Session Ends with Statement*EA122036 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] The People's Supreme Council (PSC) Presidium this afternoon ended its third session held 11-12 May chaired by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the People's Supreme Council Presidium. The council session reviewed the political situation in the Yemeni, Arab, and international arenas in light of current conditions, and the activity of the Presidium and the government in various fields between the council's two sessions.

A PSC news statement on the work of the current session said that to (?solve) the return of the misled, guarantees had been made to give returnees the right to obtain the various financial rights and privileges they had before the abortive conspiratorial coup of 13 January, and provide jobs for them, according to the capabilities and qualifications of each person, to (?secure) their right as mentioned in the laws in force.

The council stressed that the joint national efforts of the leadership of the two parts of Yemen and the desire for the security and stability of our homeland and its progress would enable the difficulties which the misled faced in returning to their relatives to be overcome. It called on the misled to return before the extended period of the general amnesty expired at the end of next July.

The council appealed to the masses to receive the general party conference with more internal cohesion, voluntary competitions, increased production, and (?constant) alertness to protect the achievements of the revolution. It stressed that the cause of the party and its victory is the cause of the people. In its session this morning the council discussed a report on the closing of the final government accounts for 1986.

Nu'man Addresses CEMA Committee Meeting in Aden*EA122014 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] The first meeting of the first session of the Joint PDRY-CEMA Committee began this morning at the Palestine Conference Hall. The session will last 3 days. Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, addressed the opening session. He wel-

joined the delegations attending the meetings of the first session. He pointed out that the meeting of the joint committee between our country and CEMA in Aden did not only imply political and economic support for our country, which we highly value, but would also discuss important issues for the future development of commercial exchange and the exchange of experience. In addition, the joint committee will discuss future strategic fields of cooperation to include other aspects, perhaps the most prominent of which is integrative cooperation in the productive base of the industrial sectors, namely the extractive and the processing fields, agriculture, fisheries, construction, and strategic cooperation in maritime and air transport, and communications.

The prime minister stressed that our country's relations with the community of the socialist countries, and above all the USSR, constitute an essential prerequisite for the success of the socialist experiment in our country and the triumph of its socialist structures. He stressed that the acceptance of our country as a CEMA observer member in 1979 was a qualitative leap in our country's relations with the socialist countries.

The meetings of the session will discuss a number of important issues including cooperation projects — on which initial interest will be concentrated; the constitution of the joint committee; its working plan for the period between this first session and the next one; and the date and venue of the next meeting of the joint committee.

Minister Interviewed on Prospects for Unity
PM121155 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
6-12 May 87 p 16,17

[Interview with Rashid Muhammad Thabit, PDRY Minister of state for unification affairs and YSP Central Committee member, by Fadiyah al-Zu'bi in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Zu'bi] What is the role of the Ministry for Unity? Is it a coordination bureau or body planning the establishment of unity?

[Thabit] As you know, the minister for unity is a member of the Council of Ministers, which is the executive body responsible for the implementation of the policy drawn up by the YSP in the various fields and specializations. Yemeni unity as a national task is part of all the tasks that fall within the movement for change at all political, cultural, economic, and social levels. Such tasks are entrusted to the Council of Ministers to be implemented within a specific period of time. Consequently, the minister for unity, as a member of the Council of Ministers, participates in defining the immediate practical tasks assigned to each ministry separately, including the ministry for unity, for implementation. The ministry then lays down plans and programs to facilitate the implementation of the party's policy regarding the national unity issue. [passage omitted]

[Al-Zu'bi] What was the effect of the January events on unity between the two parts of Yemen?

[Thabit] There is no doubt that the January events had a negative

effect on various aspects of life in Yemeni society in both parts of the country, because what happened was a conspiracy aimed at disrupting Yemeni society and starting a civil war that would destroy everything. The conspiracy was of the highest order of planning and organization in that the conspirators were, first, in the highest positions of power in the south and, second, were trusted with government and the responsibility for protecting the country and providing security, stability, and prosperity for the citizen. What surprised the Yemeni citizen as he saw things was the fact that those in whom he put his trust and confidence betrayed that trust by turning the sources of power into tools for killing the citizens and destroying the country. This was an action that violated all the values and traditions of Yemeni rulers in both ancient and contemporary history. And it has caused the Yemeni citizen, since the incidents in question, to live in a state of stupor and astonishment at what happened and at the magnitude of the conspiracy. [passage omitted]

But the responsible and patriotic action by the leaderships of both parts of the country following the events prevented the conspirators from widening the destructive sphere of their conspiracy, thus facilitating containment of the social and psychological effects of the conspirators' actions. Joint and intensive efforts were made by the leaderships of both parts of Yemen to contain the negative effects of the bloody 13 January events.

The activities of the leadership in the northern part tended toward creating better and natural conditions for unionist activities and eliminating any factors that might cause strain in relations between the two parts. Our people and the political leadership in the south have appreciated this stand, which has led to a joint call for the need to work for unity through continuing unionist activities and coordination between the two leaderships on the basis of commitment to the previous unity agreements. It has also led to the desire to deal with any new incidents resulting from the 13 January events in the spirit of the ever-developing relations between the two parts of the country and in a manner that will ensure stability and social progress for our Yemeni people throughout the country.

[Al-Zu'bi] Some observers attribute the 13 January events to the failure to achieve unity between the two parts of the country. Had this unity been achieved, all these events would have been avoided. What does the minister say to this?

[Thabit] In fact, if we go back to the preamble of every agreement concluded between the two parts of the country, we find the assertion that Yemeni unity is the basis for building a modern and stable Yemeni society; that unity will ensure the protection of Yemeni independence and sovereignty against external intervention, aggression, or conspiracy; and that Yemeni unity is a question of progress, civilization, and prosperity for the Yemeni people. It is a fundamental need for consolidating the foundations of political independence and building an independent national economy. It is also a protection for Yemen against colonialist influence and neocolonialism. Unity is the solution for the various problems inherited from colonialism, including the tribalism and social division which have been one of the factors obstructing stability, peace, and progress in Yemen. The assertion of this fact by the leaderships of both parts of Yemen leads us to reassert on our part the importance of Yemeni unity for strengthening

internal stability and thwarting any conspiratorial attempts to consecrate rifts, division, and isolation in the people's ranks, which are factors undermining stability and provoking bloody conflicts. Therefore Yemeni unity will definitely be the fence that will protect Yemen against disasters and conspiracies that harm the country's security and stability and the people's social progress. [passage omitted]

The 26 September and the 14 October victories opened wide vistas before our people for struggle to eliminate the division within Yemeni society which is one of worst legacies of the colonialist era. There is no doubt that national duty make it incumbent on honorable Yemenis to work toward removing the effects of social backwardness such as sectarianism, tribalism, and regionalism, because these enable plotters to tamper with the country and hatch plots inside Yemeni society and so create disasters that wipe out progress achievements and eliminate stable life in the country.

[Al-Zu'bi] Why is not the constitution of the united state agreed on 30 December 1981 put to a public referendum, as the agreements between the two parts of the country envisage? Are there any reservations about it?

[Thabit] On 3 August 1983 the weekly *26 September* published interviews with leaderships of both parts of the country regarding the meeting of the Yemeni Council and unionist activity. And in one of the interviews with a then-member of the South Yemeni leadership it was said regarding the draft constitution and the constitutional committee ending its work:

"The Yemeni Council has looked at the joint constitutional committee's conclusion of its work and reviewed the results of that work as well as the progress of work in other committees and has adopted a number of measures necessary to implement what has been agreed with regard to completing the work of the unity committees that have not yet concluded their tasks. With regard to the necessary measures to ratify the constitution, they have already been agreed between the two parts of the country and will be implemented under suitable conditions — on which the political leaderships of both parts will decide."

It is clear from the above that the Yemeni Council had considered the results of the constitutional committee's work and come out with observations calling for: First, linking the ratification of the constitution by both presidents to the completion of their tasks by the other unity committees. Second, measures are to be taken in accordance with the Cairo, Tripoli, and Kuwait agreements in suitable conditions to be decided by the leaderships of both parts of Yemen. Which means non-ratification of the draft constitution and a lack of conviction in implementing it, despite the fact that the conditions and atmosphere then were suitable for its implementation. We believe the question of Yemeni unity must now top the agenda of the activities of leaderships in both parts of the country; it must be dealt with within the framework of the draft constitution sincerely and conscientiously to ensure that practical steps are taken toward the achievement of unity on the basis of democratic dialogue and the principles of peaceful action by leaderships of both parts of the country. This task can be accomplished now that the leaderships of both parts have been able to remove the obstacles and

difficulties with which the enemies tried to exhaust our people, disperse their strength, and hinder their progress toward the restoration of unity and the building of a new and prosperous life. [passage omitted]

SAUDI ARABIA

'Source' Denies Claims of Helping U.S. Intelligence LD121743 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May (SPA) — A responsible source has denied the allegations made by Dr 'Abd al-'Azim 'Anis, lecturer at 'Ayn Shams University, at a 10 May "Symposium on Defending Culture" in Cairo, which deals with the social and cultural roots of Egypt's sectarian problems. Dr 'Abd al-'Azim 'Anis asserted at the symposium that Saudi Arabia is helping U.S. intelligence look for a Muslim clergyman in Egypt to take the reigns of power there. The source has added that such a report is fundamentally fabricated and groundless. Moreover, said the source, it is not characteristic of Saudi Arabia to undertake such activities or to interfere in the internal affairs of a fraternal or friendly country.

Source Denies Reported Opposition to PLO LD121441 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Riyadh, 12 May (SPA) — A responsible source has denied yesterday's *Reuter* report quoting Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia opposes the PLO's direct representation at an international peace conference on the Middle East. The source asserted that this claim is groundless and untrue, reiterating the Kingdom's permanent and unswerving support for the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's aspirations under the leadership of the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative, for the recovery of its land and the establishment of its own independent state, God willing.

Monetary Agency Presents Annual Fiscal Report LD101234 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 9 May 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 9 May (SPA) — Hamad al-Sayari, governor of the Saudi Arab Monetary Agency, and other senior officials of the agency had the honor of greeting King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God safeguard him, at the royal court this evening. The agency's governor submitted to the custodian of the two holy mosques the agency's annual report which contains an explanation of the main developments in the 1405-06 [1985-86] fiscal year. They were presented to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy. The meeting was also attended by their highnesses Prince Turki ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Prince Mashhur ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and their highnesses and excellencies the cabinet ministers.

The governor of the Saudi Arab Monetary Agency said he was happy and proud to submit the agency's 25th annual report to the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him. He pointed out that the report reviews the major developments in 1405-6 and some developments which occurred in 1406-7

[1986-87].

In a speech he made to the custodian of the two holy mosques, he detailed the year's economic achievements. He said that to appreciate the achievements, it is sufficient to compare the conditions in the country 10 years ago with the present day level of equipment and living standards. He noted that the country now has the most up to date equipment and the people have the best means to enable them to live in dignity and prosperity.

His excellency explained that because of the deterioration in the foreign oil markets, the economy passed through a period of readjustment over the past 4 years. That period, he emphasized, was an opportunity to raise the level of efficiency in all economic sectors, a matter which will have some effect on future development.

He said that with the relatively long period of readjustment, the custodian of the two holy mosques continued his efforts to control and to gradually decreasing the rate of expenditure to strike a balance between the level of economic activity and the real drop in revenues.

He added that a comparison between the Saudi economy and other economies shows the strength of our national economy and its ability to absorb the readjustment without any crisis or difficulties to the public.

Al-Sayari pointed out that, despite the years of reduced economic activity and readjustment, the country, with God's help, did not have the economic problems encountered by other developing and industrial countries facing the same circumstances. These other countries, he said, suffered from inflation and unemployment but the Kingdom maintained a stable level of prices. He emphasized that the price index is in fact showing a downward trend and there is no unemployment to speak of. This is evidence of the strength of the kingdom's economy and its ability to adjust. At present, he said, there are indications that the local economy is entering a phase of renewed activity.

Concluding his speech, he praised the blessed and successful efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

The custodian of the two holy mosques thanked Hamad al-Sayari and the other officials in charge of the agency wishing them more success. He expressed hope that the kingdom's achievements and developments will continue. He said what has been achieved is a result of God's blessing and the state's efforts in a brief period and at high standards.

The annual report of the Saudi Arab Monetary Agency explained that the process of adjustment of the Saudi economy, which began in the year 1403-04 continued in the following year for the third successive year, and consequently the level of economic activity went down to be more practical and more capable of continuity. This helped to maintain the quick achievements realized during the period of extraordinary growth, the period of economic boom. Priority was given to improving economic efficiency and effectiveness when evaluating projects. Unnecessary expenditure was gradually reduced and the cost

went down with a big margin in both the public and the private sectors.

The report noted that the kingdom's revenues from oil in 1405-06 were only about 87.7 billion riyals, a decline of 27.7 percent compared with the previous year. Comparing it with the peak reached in 1401-02 when it totalled 328.6 billion riyals, the oil revenues of 1405-06 were little more than one-quarter of that figure. Other revenues have also dropped including the local revenues at the rate of 12.6 percent, thus making the (?rate) of the total drop 23.3 percent in the gross revenues or 131.5 billion riyals in 1405-06 compared to 171.5 billion riyals in the previous year.

The report dealt with the government's decision to meet the drop in revenues in a practical way through a reduction of unnecessary expenditure and consequently a reduction of the government's actual expenditure in 1405-06 by 16.1 percent or 181.5 billion riyals. Despite this reduction, government expenditure constituted 64.2 percent of the gross domestic product and this ratio is higher than its level in most of the welfare states of modern times.

The annual report affirmed also that the continuous downward trend of inflation during the previous years has continued in the year 1405-06, and the average price decrease of the gross domestic product excluding oil has dropped, which reflects all the costs and prices with an average of .2 percent compared to 1.6 percent in the previous year. The decrease of the drop in 1405-06 is attributed to the increase with an average of 2.6 percent in the price of imports. Despite this, a record decrease with an average of 3.5 percent in the cost of living has emerged and, consequently, an increase in the real income of the citizens took place.

The report pointed out that the performance of the Saudi economy according to the sectors of economic activity was different in the year 1405-06. The agriculture sector, the public utilities, and industry have made important positive contributions in the gross domestic product, excluding oil. The added value in agricultural production has increased in real term with an average of 13 percent for the same period in the year 1404-05 [1984-85], in addition to similar growth averages in the previous 2 years. The real added value of the sector of public utilities increased with an average of 11.4 percent in the year 1405-06 whereas the industries sector, including oil refining industry, has recorded a balanced average of growth of 2 percent.

On the other hand, the average growth of the construction sector decreased with an average of 20 percent in the year 1405-06 as a natural result of the achievement of the basic structure and the housing projects in the kingdom and this has led in its turn to a decrease taking place in the trade and transportation sectors. [passage omitted]

The report dealt with long-term savings and savings deposits and explained that these deposits have maintained an upward trend. There was a sharp rise amounting to 3.09 billion riyals, that is 8.4 percent, to reach 39.68 billion riyals, compared to a rise of 3.01 billion riyals, that is 9.0 percent last year. Its share of the gross deposits rose from 32 percent in 1404-05 to 35 percent in 1405-06. With regard to the capital and reserves of banks, the report indicated that the size of commercial banks' capital and

reserves rose to 13.10 billion riyals by the end of 1405-06 year, thus realizing an increase of 1.12 billion riyals, that is 9.4 percent, over the previous year. Capital and reserves, therefore, constituted 8.4 percent of the gross assets of banks. [passage omitted]

The report reviewed special loans institutions and said these institutions continued to provide interest-free loans to encourage industrial and agricultural expansion, and loans amounting to 10.9 billion riyals were paid out. In view of the fact that loan repayments reached (75.6) billion riyals, their net loans rose by around 5.3 billion riyals. This development was important for the private sector after the drop in loans and borrowings granted by commercial banks. The gross accumulated loans paid out by these institutions, less repayments, reached around 166 billion riyals at the end of 1405-06.

With regard to foreign trade and balance of payments, the report explained that in view of the continuing world oil crisis the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's oil exports dropped by an average of 27 percent to 85.5 billion riyals in 1405-06 in addition to other falls from which the kingdom has suffered in the previous 3 years, which averaged 43.6, 25.6, and 22.4 percent. Thus, the kingdom's oil exports in 1405-06 amounted to less than one quarter of the peak reached in 1401-02 when it reached 363.1 billion riyals. Revenues fell by an average of 25 percent in 1405-06 to 67 billion riyals, while revenues in 1404-05 and 1403-04 declined by averages of 16 and 6 percent respectively. It added that these falls in export revenues exceeded the fall in revenue payments; the net trade balance surplus amount to only 24 billion riyals in 1405-06 compared to 31 billion riyals in 1404-05. [passage omitted]

The total of loans paid out by the Saudi Industrial Development Fund since its establishment to support the industrial sector has reached 10.1 billion riyals and 745.6 million of this was paid out in 1405-06. [passage omitted]

The report explained that the three Petroleum Ministry oil refineries in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Yanbu' produced around 162.2 million barrels in 1405 for local consumption demands; thus, realizing an average growth of 11.8 percent compared to their production in the previous year. The refineries in Jubayl and Yanbu' which specialize in exports, entered the production phase in 1405 and produced 38.8 million barrels during the period they have been in operation. The total production of Petrolop reached 1.23 million barrels of greasing oil in 1405 in the factories it has in Riyadh and Jeddah. [passage omitted]

The report said agricultural development continued to achieve great progress and this was clearly reflected in the continuing rise in agricultural production and poultry and dairy produce. It is estimated that the kingdom's wheat production rose by 46 percent in 1984-85 to exceed 2 million tons compared to the previous year which was 1.4 million tons. The report explained that the rise is mainly due to an average increase of 42 percent in the area of cultivated land, reaching 575,500 hectares.

In addition to the Kingdom's self-sufficiency there was a surplus for export and there was also a rise in the production of vegetables, fruit, eggs, chicken, and meat. In view of the large increase in the production of eggs, the Kingdom stopped importing and has started exporting eggs to neighboring countries. The produc-

tion of meat has risen to meet 45 percent of local consumption in 1405 and production exceeded three times its level in 1402. [passage omitted]

UAE

Editorial Discusses 'Hostile' U.S. Policy

JN121136 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 May 87 p 1

[Editorial: "For the Attention of Mr Murphy"]

[Text] As long as Richard Murphy is with us, it is an opportunity to convey to him in brief what people throughout the Arab world think of his country's policy and stands.

After a long and bitter experience and by analyzing the facts, the Arab world believes that, contrary to what many people think, the United States does have a consistent and regular policy on the Arab causes. That policy is primarily based on a clearly hostile stand toward the Arab issues together and toward each of them individually. Such a policy reveals itself in many ways and on various occasions which will form a long list if we were to enumerate them.

Arab public opinion believes the principal instrument executing that policy is Israel. Also contrary to what many people believe, the influence of the Zionist pressure groups, or the Zionist lobby, in the United States in formulating U.S. policy toward the Arab region is exaggerated and is sometimes intended to mislead. Israel lies at the heart of U.S. strategy and is one of its important axes. Indeed, it is so important that it would be true to say that if there were no Israel, the United States would have, according to such a strategy, had to create it or create something like it. With such an instrument the United States aborts the hopes of all the Arabs to achieve political, economic, and social progress, for the United States has drawn up clear objectives for our Arab world, namely to keep it constantly in a state of weakness, backwardness, and political and economic subservience.

The instrument working for U.S. strategy in the region is also working for its own interests, although the two roles complement each other. Arab public opinion is fully aware that Israel is not something on its own but is a nerve of the United States that lives and transgresses and reaches out as far as it can in our Arab world. It is by U.S. aircraft and missiles alone that our children, women, and old people in southern Lebanon are being killed, and their villages and camps destroyed. It is because it is supported only the inexhaustible U.S. arsenal of weapons that Israel is consolidating its occupation of Arab territory, and it is with U.S. funds alone that Israel is implementing the Zionist settlement programs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and is uprooting their inhabitants.

Arab public opinion is aware that the United States has instruments other than Israel that reveal its firmly hostile policy toward Arab causes. Arab public opinion is also fully aware of what the United States has done on the oil front, and has seen — thanks to what U.S. institutions themselves have exposed — the ominous U.S. stand toward the Iraq-Iran war. Arab public opinion fully understands the reasons for the U.S. economic stands toward some

Arab countries, stands which aim to distort and obstruct the economic development of these countries.

In short the Arab world clearly distinguishes a state of hostility which it experienced in the past with the imperialist countries that preceded the United States.

Press on Murphy's Tour

JN121652 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 May (WAM) — In their editorials today, three local newspapers view U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's tour of the region, the statements he made during this tour, and U.S. policy toward Arab issues in general and toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war in particular.

Dubayy *Al-Bayan* says: When the U.S. officials speak during their successive visits to the Arab region or in their news conferences about their country's eagerness to maintain strong ties with friendly Arab states, they deliberately articulate stands that go against U.S. policies and stands toward Arab issues, in general, and the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular. The paper adds: When the Arab officials hear visiting U.S. officials speak about the good U.S. intentions toward Arab issues, they immediately recall the long series of calamities which have befallen the Arab nation since the forties, thanks to U.S. policy.

The paper continues: Despite the fact that U.S. officials know they are not telling the truth and that Arab officials realize this, and also realize that if it had not been for the hostile U.S. policy the Arab region would have been spared the sufferings it is now experiencing, the doors of the region always remain open for any visiting U.S. official. The paper adds: If it had been for the United States, Israel would not have been established, and if it had not been for the U.S. aid and assistance, which has been flowing into Israel, Israel would have been rendered incapable of exercising its hostile, expansionist policy. Despite all this, U.S. officials are discussing their country's eagerness to maintain strong ties with the Arabs. The paper asks: What kind of eagerness are they talking about and what kind of ties are they referring to at a time when their country is completely biased and uses all of its weight and capabilities toward the Israeli aggression? The U.S. credibility has eroded due to this bias and the attempts to revive this credibility will fail unless the United States changes its political course and commits itself to the slogans it upholds on human rights and people's right to self-determination.

The newspaper *Al-Wahdah* says: U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's tour takes place within the framework of the conflict with the Soviet Union over a military presence in the Gulf waters. The paper adds: This tour, which takes place days after the visit to the region's states by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy, is absolutely unrelated to U.S. efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war.

The paper continues: Neither superpower is working to end the war, and both of them are exporting huge quantities of weapons to help fan the flames of the war, which has been raging for approximately 7 years. *Al-Wahdah* adds: Regardless of the statements made by Murphy or even the U.S. President himself

on these efforts, the situation reflects mere procrastination on the part of the United States to help entrench the U.S. presence in the region and guarantee the free flow of U.S. strategy requirements through the Gulf.

Concluding, the newspaper says: The U.S. Administration and all of its institutions have no credibility at all when they deal with our issues. Can we then believe Murphy? How can we believe him? The war continues unabated and the danger continues to threaten everyone while the U.S. Administration has no concern whatsoever other than that of exporting weapons to bring about the best possible benefits from the war. Words without action are to no avail in this regard.

Petroleum Minister on Oil Production Quota

JN121622 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] His Excellency Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and mineral resources minister, has emphasized that the UAE requests its oil production quota be increased on the basis of firm economic, technical, and political foundations.

In an interview with the newspaper *Al-Ittihad* today, Al-'Utaybah said the UAE's stand is very clear and added that the OPEC member states, especially the fraternal GCC member states, must understand it. He pointed out that the OPEC conference, which is scheduled to be held in Vienna on 25 June, will discuss increasing the OPEC production ceiling in a manner that preserves the balance on the oil market and the recent improvement in this market.

Dr Al-'Utaybah warned against hurrying to bring about an increase in oil prices this year. He emphasized the need to benefit from the prices' experience last year and said the fluctuation in the [U.S.] dollar's exchange rate is a permanent problem for OPEC, and added that OPEC will follow the developments concerning the dollar's exchange rate with concern and interest. He noted that talk about the decline in the purchasing power of the dollar is premature. Dr al-'Utaybah expects an increasing demand for oil in the last quarter of this year that will reach 18 million barrels per day.

YAR

'Arafat Arrives in Sanaa, Met by President Salih

JN121243 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Sanaa at dawn today on a visit of several days to our country. His visit is designed to follow up talks with brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, in the interest of the Palestinian cause and the overall Arab situation, the PLO leader said.

Welcoming 'Arafat at the airport were a number of officials,

Brother 'Abdallah Abu al-Hunud, PLO charge d'affaires in Sanaa, and Brother Abu Humud, commander of the Sabra camp in Sanaa, as well as a number of the Palestinian revolution cadres.

President, 'Arafat Confer

JN130617 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this evening received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. During the meeting, they discussed issues of interest to the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and reviewed the latest Arab and international developments.

Prime Minister Outlines Economic Situation

PM131037 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
9 May 87 p 42,43

[Interview with Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani by Hamidah Na'na' in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts][Passage omitted][Na'na'] A few months ago, Yemen celebrated the completion of the rebuilding of the historic Ma'rib Dam, which had been given special attention. Can you expand on the volume of projects and the area of land which will benefit from the dam?

['Abd al-Ghani] To us the Ma'rib Dam project is not just the building of a dam with agricultural and production projects. We consider that it has a historic meaning and significance, not only for Yemenis but for all Arabs and Muslims. Because of the sources of its financing, it constitutes a symbol of Arab solidarity. The dam was a necessity for Yemen, because our country has been agricultural since the dawn of history and every Yemeni farmer is linked to the Yemeni soil and interacts with it. This is what made agriculture a priority in our country. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] You are about to enter into a new oil stage, which would threaten agriculture, as happened in some of the oil states. What are your practical projects to prevent a deterioration in agricultural life in favor of the oil industry?

['Abd al-Ghani] Our policy in this field is as explained by the brother president. The oil revenue will certainly be used primarily in agricultural development and other economic spheres. We have already begun to implement this policy, because agriculture is not just a means of living but indeed a way of living, since most Yemenis own small holdings, and this in itself is a guarantee. Agriculture still constitutes our principal source of income. Most of our investments are in the domain of agriculture. The activities of cooperatives are mostly agricultural or employed indirectly in agriculture. We have been eager to introduce modern methods and techniques, which have received considerable response from individuals before official bodies.

All the factors I have mentioned are sufficient guarantees against our transforming Yemen into a mere oil state, because the Yemeni would find it difficult to abandon his achievements here. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Let us talk about the industrial field. I have seen some food industries. Does your plan include more important projects for which the oil revenue can secure sufficient financing?

['Abd al-Ghani] Industry is new in Yemen; it began not so long ago. The spinning and weaving mill, which is the important one, was set up in 1964. There are also other industries like food processing and mineral water. We are encouraging the private sector to increase our local production. We are thinking of establishing food industries that will enable us to dispense with imports. We are also thinking of establishing petrochemical industries, especially now that we have discovered natural gas which will enable us to reduce the cost of energy and, consequently, the cost of industrial production. In the future we will be able to talk about the fertilizer industry as well as the existing industry of building and construction.

[Na'na'] Can Yemen achieve self-sufficiency in food? If not, can this be possibly achieved in the future without relying on foreign aid?

['Abd al-Ghani] Self-sufficiency is an objective we are always striving for, especially in the field of agriculture. But we cannot do without foreign aid at this stage in particular. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] What are the joint projects with Aden which have been implemented or are being implemented?

['Abd al-Ghani] We believe economic unity is a strong foundation for political unity. On this basis, whenever an opportunity arises regarding an economic project that we find feasible for both north and south, we try to build and implement it. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] There is an old proverb from Damascus that says "Yemen's soil is gold," and the geological studies conducted in recent years indicate that there are many mineral resources in Yemen which are still undeveloped. Is there any plan to invest in these resources?

['Abd al-Ghani] It is true we have natural resources as yet unconfirmed. We have copper, for instance, and we have reached advanced stages of exploration. There are also silver and zinc, and in the eastern areas we have found the gold the Damascus proverb talks about. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Yemen is among the few Third World countries that do not suffer from the IMF or relations with it. We often ask Yemen's secret, as it is not a rich country. How did you manage to organize your relations with the IMF, and what is the nature of those relations?

['Abd al-Ghani] Our relations with IMF and the World Bank are good. There are numerous projects in Yemen financed by the World Bank, namely electrical and agricultural projects. As for

our relations with the IMF, they are very limited because the IMF deals with financial loans to solve balance of payments problems in developing countries. We have not received any loans from the Fund to reform the balance of payments, and this makes

our relations with it "friendly." We hold yearly consultations with the IMF and we use its technical and financial planning expertise, but we have not to date concluded any agreements on loans. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Arrives for Brief Working Visit

Met at Airport by Mubarak

NC121632 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 12 May 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a brief working visit.

President Husni Mubarak received his majesty at the airport and accompanied him to the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis.

President Mubarak and King Husayn have held talks at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis within the framework of continuous meetings to exchange views, coordinate stands, and promote the peace process in the region. [passage omitted]

Peace Conference Discussed

NC121709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the expanded meeting held between President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn dealt with the Middle East issue and the latest developments in the Arab, international, and Palestinian arenas. He added that the meeting also dealt with the efforts being made by both leaders to hold an international peace conference.

In conclusion, Al-Sharif noted that President Mubarak and King Husayn will continue their talks over a banquet to break the fast, which President Mubarak will host for the Jordanian king and his accompanying delegation.

Participants Listed

JN121826 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the Presidential Palace this evening immediately following King Husayn's arrival in Cairo. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Armed Forces commander in chief.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and director of the president's office for political affairs. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Reviews Talks

NC122043 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — At the conclusion of talks between President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan at the president's office tonight, Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that this visit was within the framework of continuing meetings between His Majesty King Husayn and President Mubarak to coordinate the two countries' policies and efforts, both to bolster bilateral cooperation and to discuss regional problems.

Dr al-Baz added: They addressed well-known issues, such as peace in the Middle East and efforts to gain as much support as possible for holding an international conference. Also discussed were the Iraqi-Iranian war and efforts to find a way to end this war.

Dr al-Baz noted that there are definite consequences of the Iraqi-Iranian war, and there are also developments with regard to peace efforts in the Middle East. He added that it is natural for his majesty the king and the president to meet for constant review and follow-up.

Asked whether the two leaders discussed resolutions of the recent PNC meeting in Algiers, Dr al-Baz said: It is natural that his majesty the king and President Mubarak should discuss the PNC resolutions, among other recent developments in the Middle East. But these did not emerge as a principal issue during the meeting, he noted, saying that these resolutions received limited attention during the talks.

Regarding the effects of these resolutions on Egyptian-Jordanian activities for peace, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that such efforts are not merely Egyptian or Jordanian, but Arab. He added: There is an international movement with definite dimensions and aspects. There are the five permanent UN Security Council members; there are the parties directly concerned; and there are many other efforts involved. He said that the effects of the 18th PNC session's resolutions would emerge later and will depend on the PLO's stand with regard to the peace efforts. They will also depend on the concerned parties, views of the PLO position and the PLO's qualification [ahliyah] to act within this framework. He stressed that there is no Egyptian-Jordanian effort outside a comprehensive Arab effort, or in the absence of agreement of views among the international parties concerned.

Asked if the talks between President Mubarak and King Husayn touched on Kuwait's request that the great powers protect its oil tankers in the Hormuz Strait and the Gulf, Dr al-Baz said: These meetings do not deal with such details. This question concerns the Gulf states that have asked for this protection or for the participation of the big powers, specifically the two superpowers, in maintaining freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the Hormuz Strait. Dr al-Baz added: If there is a threat to freedom of navigation or an attack on ships flying the flags of superpowers, then assessment of such attacks, the proper response to them, and the international reaction to this situation concerns a number of international parties, not just Egypt and Jordan.

Replying to a question on the recent political changes in the region and on whether there is a common Jordanian-Egyptian stance on the international conference, Dr al-Baz said: We are certainly trying to reach an overall Arab consensus because the issue is a pan-Arab one. It is the responsibility of many countries, of course, but is first and foremost the Palestinian people's issue and responsibility. He added: The Arab perspective is necessary here because it reflects the issue's pan-Arab dimension. The Palestinian people must define their options and then reach and issue their decision on the peace process. He stressed that the Arab countries, particularly Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, which bear a special responsibility and have borders with Israel, must take a common stand and fully understand how to exploit the present atmosphere — which is more favorable than before in regard to preparations for holding the international conference. He noted that the actual form and manner of the conference is a technical question, the details of which could be decided later. What is important, he said, is to reach an agreement on the principles at this particular stage.

Dr al-Baz explained that the international conference cannot impose solutions or opinions on the participants; otherwise, it would be similar to one of the UN forums. Its resolutions would in essence be like the resolutions passed by the Security Council or the General Assembly, and would be added to the big filing cabinet of past resolutions which have neither been implemented nor have affected the issues' course. He stressed that, in the end, the most important thing is that the parties directly concerned reach an agreement so that the international conference will depend on each party's satisfaction and commitment to implement the pledges it undertakes. In the absence of an agreement, no international forum can impose a view or solution. He then noted that the time has come for the Arabs to abandon the illusion that a solution can be imposed; otherwise, the Security Council would have succeeded in imposing this solution long ago.

Asked about the reports regarding Arab mediation attempts to contain the crisis between Egypt and the PLO, Dr al-Baz said: The question is not one of conciliation, dispute, or exasperation with a certain stand; it concerns a concept. The PLO and all the Arab and non-Arab parties must understand that Egypt cannot accept being questioned. It cannot accept having its policy brought to account or standing alone among other countries to be dealt with in this manner. He stated: Egypt has channeled its efforts and used much of its time to adopt the Palestinian issue as its own and defend it in all circles. All the Palestinian groups must appreciate this stand. Therefore, we do not believe that there is a crisis. We see only that there is a stand which must be corrected and that the correction must be made in the same way the error was made.

Commenting on the current differences within the Israeli coalition government and whether this could affect the opportunities for the international conference, Dr Usamah al-Baz stated: The outcome of the struggle and competition in Israel will affect, at least to a certain degree, the course of the efforts to hold the conference, particularly as the issue around which their dispute revolves is the issue of holding the international conference. The Labor Party agrees to the holding of the conference, while the

Likud rejects the notion and tries to object to it in principle or by placing impossible conditions on it. He added: Egypt is watching the situation and following events. It hopes that all the concerned parties will act in a manner that will bring the end of this conflict, the beginning of a comprehensive settlement, and the fulfillment of another step along the road to peace.

King Husayn Departs

NC121955 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan left Cairo this evening following a brief working visit of several hours.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak saw the Jordanian king off at the airport.

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Message

NC121126 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 May (MENA) — 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, adviser to the amir of Kuwait, left Cairo at noon today following a 24-hour visit during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said he had delivered a message to President Mubarak from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and added that he will take a verbal reply back to the amir. He noted that during their meeting he and President Mubarak discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest, particularly the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran war, and the situation in the Middle East. He said that the talks formed part of the ongoing consultations between Egypt and Kuwait and between President Mubarak and Shaykh Jabir. 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn remarked that President Mubarak showed great interest in the issues that were discussed.

The Kuwaiti official was seen off by 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari, head of the Kuwaiti Interests Section in Cairo.

'Large Number' of Opposition Reportedly Arrested

NC130531 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have arrested a large number of opposition members, particularly those belonging to Islamic groups in Cairo, Alexandria, and Kafr al-Shaykh. Reporting the event, the opposition newspaper *Al-Ahrar* claimed that well over 850 citizens have been arrested in Cairo alone. A number of houses also were subjected to indiscriminate searches. The authorities resorted to this measure in retaliation for the assassination attempt against former Interior Minister Abu Basha.

Communique 2,672 Details 11-12 May Combat
JN121812 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
 1750 GMT 12 May 87

[Communique No 2,672 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces have inflicted more losses on the aggressors through the following combat operations last night and today:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships carried out 49 combat sorties against enemy units, killing their men and destroying their equipment, weapons, and other hardware. Our helicopters then returned safely to base, praise be to God.
2. In the VII Army Corps sector, the aggressors suffered the following confirmed losses: five enemy troops killed; one 106-mm gun, a machinegun, a shovel [preceding word in English], and one vehicle loaded with ammunition destroyed; three ammunition dumps set alight; and a weapons emplacement demolished.
3. One of our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah spotted a number of enemy vehicles and brought them under fire, destroying several. They also detected groups of scoundrels and killed or wounded a number of them. In another position, two ammunition dumps and three infantry posts were destroyed.
4. One enemy soldier was killed and a tank and an ammunition dump were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.
5. A shovel and a number of enemy personnel were wounded in the I Army Corps northern sector.

[Signed] the Armed Forces General Command, 12 May 1987

Corps Commander Recounts Foiled Iranian Drive
JN090732 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA) — A senior Iraqi military commander has announced that the Iraqi forces in the I Army Corps northern sector have destroyed more than 60 percent of the Iranian attackers. In a statement appearing in today's edition of *Al-Qadisiyah*, Staff Lieutenant General Nizar 'Abd al-Karim al-Khazraji, commander of the I Army Corps, said that in its recent assault on the Mawt [as received] defensive perimeter, the Iranian enemy mobilized some 45 regiments of the Khomeyniite Guard. He added that these regiments suffered heavy losses when they joined the battle.

The commander noted that the Iraqi forces surrounded the attacking Iranians at several vantage points in the border area.

He added that the Iraqis recaptured a number of positions which the Iranians had taken earlier and seized others.

The Iraqi commander described the enemy attacks in the I Army Corps sector as a clear attempt to force the bulk of the Iraqi units to withdraw from other vital areas. However, he said, the Iranians were surprised by Iraq's swift and devastating response in which the national defense regiments won splendid victories.

The Iraqi commander explained that the units which the Iranian regime managed to assemble to attack the I Army Corps will be of no importance, as they will be far less than those mobilized for previous actions.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi officer stressed that the units in the I Army Corps are fully prepared to deal with enemy activities without drawing on strategic reserves.

'Aziz Leaves For Arab Committee Beijing Talks
JN130613 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2008 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 12 May (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad for Beijing tonight to join the delegation of the seven-member Arab committee entrusted with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

The seven-member group, which is led by Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk, will meet with Chinese officials to discuss ways of implementing the Arab League resolution calling for a halt to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Hasan 'Ali Returns From Poland, Views Visit
JN101444 Baghdad INA in English 1248 GMT 10 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, May 10, INA — Member of the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, Secretary-General of the National Patriotic Progressive Front, Hasan 'Ali today returned here, concluding a several days visit to Poland.

During the visit, Mr 'Ali headed a delegation of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front to the 2nd congress of the Polish National Movement for Patriotic Resurrection, which concluded in Warsaw yesterday.

Mr 'Ali stated upon arrival here that the Iraqi delegation had held meetings with a number of Polish officials, during which formulas of cooperation between the Iraqi Progressive National and Patriotic Front and the Polish National Movement for Patriotic Resurrection were discussed and means of developing bilateral relations were reviewed.

The current Arab situation and incessant Iranian aggression against Iraq as well as Iraq's peaceful stands were discussed during the meetings, Mr 'Ali added.

King Husayn Leaves for Brief Cairo Visit 12 May

JN121517 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Cairo this afternoon on a brief working visit during which he will hold talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and a number of top officials within the framework of his majesty's continuous coordination and consultation efforts to achieve a unified Arab stand on the efforts being exerted to convene an international conference to achieve a just, durable settlement in the Middle East.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; and a number of senior officials.

His majesty is accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Returns Home 12 May

JN130549 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 13 May 87

[Excerpt] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn and the accompanying delegation returned home yesterday after a working visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Cables Husni Mubarak

JN130837 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 13 May 87

["Text" of cable sent by King Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on 12 May]

[Text] His Excellency Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, may God preserve him:

Having returned to the homeland after a brief working visit to your prosperous capital, I am pleased to convey to Your Excellency and to your colleagues my sincere greetings and profound gratitude and appreciation for the great hospitality and attention accorded to us. I am also pleased to confirm to his excellency my brother that regular contacts and coordination, aimed at developing bilateral relations for the common good, in addition to discussing matters concerning our Arab homeland, have been successful in setting a firm basis for common understanding and joint action in a way that serves the interests of our peoples and the aspirations of our nation.

Much satisfaction is caused by our views being identical on all the matters we discussed and analyzed in our brotherly meeting in this blessed month. While praying that God will help us attain the aspirations of our nation, represented by unifying and massing ranks in the confrontation of challenges, I wish Your Excellency happiness and success. I also wish the brotherly Egyptian

people progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. May God keep you and grant you success.

[Signed] Your brother Husayn ibn Talal.

Minutes of Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee

JN080724 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 8 May 87 p 7

["Text" of joint minutes of the sixth session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee signed in Amman on 7 May 1987]

[Text] Out of the strong ties of cooperation between the two sister countries laid down by the two great leaders, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal; to affirm pan-Arab ties, gathering the sons of the one Arab nation in all their countries; to strengthen the existing close relations between the two sister countries; and out of the two countries' concern to reinforce their fraternal relations in all fields in an atmosphere of complete understanding and coordination, the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee held its sixth session in Amman from 5-7 May. The Egyptian side was led by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, while Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i led the Jordanian side.

After endorsing the agenda, the committee comprehensively assessed the development of bilateral relations in all fields since its last special session, as well as the meetings held on the ministerial level and on the level of technicians. The committee agreed on the following to develop and strengthen these relations:

The Development Field [subhead]**I. In the field of economic cooperation and trade exchange:**

A. Economic cooperation: The committee has noted that the holding company has been endorsed and that 1 February 1987 is considered the date of its validity. The committee was informed that the Jordanian side has appointed its representatives to the board of directors, and the committee has decided the following:

1. To urge the Egyptian side to designate its representative to the company's board of directors.
2. To urge the company's constituent assembly to convene during the first half of July 1987.
3. Each country should transfer the installment that must be paid to the company to the bank chosen by the board of directors before the end of July 1987.
4. Establish the companies stemming from the holding company as soon as possible. These companies are: the company for maritime fisheries, the company for producing fodder and red meat, the company for producing seeds, and the company for tourism investments.

B. Trade Exchange:

1. The Jordanian side has promised to begin issuing permits to import Egyptian commodities according to the general share

mentioned in Protocol No 9 as well as to urge the private sector to increase imports from Egypt.

2. The two sides agreed to hold meetings of the joint trade committee in Cairo in June 1987 to sign Protocol No 10 and the new shared transaction.

3. The higher committee has decided that the size of the trade exchange and its components in Protocol No 10, of the shared transaction, and of the shares in the trade centers should not be less than the previous protocol, of the previous shared transaction, or of previous shares in trade centers. It calls for increasing the size of all of them. The trade committee can add new commodities in Protocol No 10 to replace commodities in Protocol No 9. Items from similar industries can be exchanged in the same quantities.

4. a. The Jordanian side has asked to be supplied with the following Egyptian commodities:

1. Aluminum — 5,000 tons.
2. Rice — 20,000 tons
3. Cotton — 5,000 bales.

b. The Egyptian side has asked to be supplied with 3,000 tons of Jordanian aluminum fluoride. It has also requested the entry of cars, buses, trucks, and railroad cars to be used by the Jordanian departments which do not pay custom fees. [sentence as published]

c. The two sides promised to study these requests and to respond to them.

5. The two sides agreed to issue permits to import national commodities exchanged between the two countries as well as to amend the cost and quantity, provided that these are on a list of commodities attached to the protocols signed between the two countries. The commodities which can be increased must not be among those whose importation is prohibited. New items whose importation is not prohibited can be added to the list.

The competent ministers will designate their representatives to complete this. The permits should be issued 3 weeks after the requests are submitted.

6. To extend the validity of the shared transaction and the implementation period of Protocol No 9 to 1987.

7. To take into account international prices as an indicator to help fix the prices of commodities exchanged by both countries. The exemptions given to national commodities when comparing prices must be taken into account.

8. To expedite the holding of trade fairs of national commodities of both countries during 1987. Each side will allocate \$2 million for these fairs and will also have the right to sell its commodities directly to the public. These fairs will also be exempt from embargo restrictions. The competent agencies will meet to specify the bases for business and how hard currencies are to be transferred.

9. To study the possibility of facilitating the transportation of agricultural products and other national commodities which are subject to radiation checks by using the pertinent certificates issued by the competent authorities in each country. The certificates should state that the agricultural products and other national commodities are free of radiation.

II. In the field of industrial coordination:

In view of the importance of this vital sector and to achieve the objective of industrial integration, the higher committee has decided:

1. To form a technical committee at the highest level from the Ministries of Industry in both countries to study the bases for industrial coordination and integration. The study will include the following:

- a. Conducting an accurate survey of the available industrial capabilities of both countries.
- b. Integrating the industrial plans of both countries.
- c. Unifying standardized specifications.
- d. Bringing about coordination among various administrations in vocational training programs.
- e. Drawing up incentive regulations concerning private sector investment.
- f. Establishing assembly industries.

The technical committee will meet in Cairo in the first half of June 1987 and submit its recommendations to the ministers of industry in both countries in September 1987.

2. To expedite studies regarding establishing joint projects in manufacturing fertilizers.
3. To enhance bilateral technical cooperation through encouraging the exchange of training and field visits to industrial projects.

III. In the field of planning:

1. To prepare a program to enhance bilateral cooperation within the framework of the 5-year development plans of both countries.
2. The Jordanian side will name 10 Jordanian planning specialists to attend courses sponsored by the Egyptian National Planning Institute.
3. To exchange information and expertise on regional planning and planning patterns.
4. The Egyptian side will receive a Jordanian delegation which will familiarize itself with Egyptian experience in information systems.
5. The Jordanian side will be given a copy of the 5-year development plan which covers the period extending from

1987-1992 once it is approved.

IV. In the field of agricultural cooperation:

The committee has noted there was tangible progress in exchange of expertise and training and also in cooperation in the fields of veterinary vaccines and in packing, cleaning, grading, and organizing agricultural produce and has consequently decided:

A. 1. To increase bilateral technical cooperation in the field of agricultural statistics and economic studies pertaining to marketing, packing, filling, and organizing agricultural produce through use of the agricultural pattern system.

2. The Jordanian side will bring in Egyptian experts and utilize their services in developing agricultural machinery and combating citrus pests through collective spraying in accordance with time periods specified for each expert.

3. The two sides will emphasize the importance of holding training courses previously requested by both countries' Agriculture Ministries, holding them in both countries during 1987.

4. Jordanian trainees will be admitted for training in the process of trading, packing, and screening agricultural produce in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

B. To expedite efforts to complete the economic feasibility studies regarding the agricultural seeds production company.

V. In the field of petroleum, mining, and electric power:

The committee expressed satisfaction with the achievements made in this sector. The committee decides the following:

To complete the organizational framework on ways to exchange information and expertise in the field of energy. The Egyptian electricity establishment will send Egyptian engineers to receive training in Jordan at the Husayn Thermal Station in accordance with a memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries.

Sending Egyptian engineers to discuss the needs of the electricity sector, including equipment needed for electrical tests to pave the way for establishing a Jordanian laboratory to examine electric equipment.

Exchange of expertise and exchange of studies and various applications of solar energy.

Holding contacts with the concerned sides in both countries for cooperation in wind power-generating projects and studying the possibility for joint projects in this field.

Following up technical studies to link the two countries electrically.

Preparing a statistical study of insulators in both countries, defining the specifications of production and the possibility of jointly producing and marketing insulators and environmental designs of buildings.

Studying the possibility of manufacturing electrical equipment which both countries need.

Approving the idea to appoint a foreign company to prepare a study on electrical linkage between both countries and to entrust the two concerned ministers in both countries with executing this proposal, provided a report is presented to the higher committee in its next session.

IV. In the field of transportation:

A. Land and sea transportation:

The committee noted with satisfaction the continuous increase in transportation on the Aqaba-Nuwaybi' line. It was evident during the first 3 months of 1987 that vehicular movement was increasing. As for the drop in the number of passengers in the first 3 months of 1987 compared to the same period in 1986, the committee recommends inviting the joint Jordanian-Egyptian transportation committee to hold a meeting and assess the progress of work on the land-sea route, the Aqaba-Nuwaybi' line, and review all ways to bolster movement on this route, including current prices.

B. The joint companies in the transportation sector:

1. The committee recommends holding a meeting to be attended by the representatives of Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq to study and prepare the necessary steps and programs covering all the technical, financial, and administrative aspects of establishing an Arab maritime bridge company prior to the seventh session of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee.

2. Owing to the technical difficulties the Egyptian side expressed, which prevent it from joining the Iraqi-Jordanian land transportation company, the committee recommends that the Egyptian side undertake the responsibility of preparing a study on the feasibility of the idea it proposed in this regard and on its legal framework so as to have it studied by the concerned sides.

The Egyptian side agreed to increase the time allowed for keeping Jordanian trucks in Egypt to 14 days from 10 days.

C. Air transportation:

1. The committee recommends that the technical committee, formed in accordance with the minutes of the meetings of the representatives of the Egyptian and Jordanian aviation authorities 26-29 December 1986, convene to complete the discussion on treating flights between the two countries as domestic flights so that these flights would enjoy all privileges and exemptions assigned to such flights, in addition to presenting defined proposals dealing with the legal, organizational, and economic framework prior to the seventh session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee.

2. The Egyptian side indicated its inability to respond to the Jordanian side's request to use the shorter air route between the two countries.

3. The Egyptian side agreed to expedite the transfer of Royal

Jordanian Airlines funds at Egyptian Banks.

VII. Cultural and educational relations:

It became evident to the committee that what was agreed upon in the minutes of the higher committee's fifth session was implemented and the committee recommends the following:

1. The Egyptian side will fix the number of seats allocated for Jordanian students before the end of July 1987 if possible.
2. Some areas in the dormitories of Egyptian universities will be assigned to Jordanian female students as of academic year 1987-88, and an agreement will be reached on the actual cost.
3. Cooperation in using computers in Egyptian and Jordanian schools in the following manner: Courses on teaching computer use will be prepared, including the contents and the methods of teaching and evaluating these courses. Producing educational programs for various school subjects and drawing up principles and criteria to produce, test, develop, maintain, and evaluate them. Training teachers, exchanging trainees, and exchanging field visits to experimental schools in both countries. Exchanging expertise and training, particularly regarding equipment and supplies.
4. The Egyptian side agreed that the admission of all Jordanian students to universities and higher institutes should take place through the Jordanian Higher Education Ministry.

VIII. In the field of telecommunications:

The committee expressed its satisfaction with the noticeable progress made in the field of regional linkage between the two countries. The first regional telephone contact between Cairo and Amman took place on 4 May 1987 as a step toward implementing a large project which will ensure regional contact with the Arab east and which will be completed in May 1988. The committee also reviewed what was accomplished in this regard. The Egyptian side indicated that the necessary funds for the microwave project between the two countries were earmarked in the 1987-88 state budget. Moreover, the technical conditions and specifications of this project have been drawn up, bearing in mind that work on this project will be completed in May 1988.

The committee also recommends the need to fix the frequencies which can be used in Aqaba in coordination with the telecommunications corporation and the special communications commission using megahertz frequencies.

IX. In the field of tourism:

The committee reviewed what was accomplished in this sector in the light of the meetings held and decided the following:

1. The completion of the necessary measures to draw up the legal form of the investment company and the initiation of an economic feasibility study. This will require the working group to pay the necessary field visits to specify investment projects and the necessary utilities needed to successfully market tourism in both countries. This company should come into existence before the

joint higher committee's next meeting once the economic feasibility of this company is proven.

2. The adoption of necessary measures to hold joint tourist weeks in both countries and in tourist-exporting countries.
3. Holding periodic meetings for the officials in charge of promoting and marketing tourism in the two countries, to agree to the contents of joint publications, and to fix educational and exploratory journeys for organizers of tourist trips from tourist-exporting countries to visit both countries and familiarize themselves with the components of joint tourism in southern Jordan and southern Sinai.
4. Reviewing the two sides' joint marketing plans periodically.
5. Urging both countries' tourism bureaus and travel and tourism agencies to encourage joint tourism trips to both countries at competitive prices.
6. Preparing the necessary designs to issue joint publications and posters and promoting tourism information regarding the two countries in both Arabic and English.
7. Agreeing to the implementation of programs related to tourism vocational training.

X. In the field of information:

The committee looked into what has been achieved in this field. It decided:

1. To continue the exchange of media and training expertise.
2. To apply a detailed fee list on advertising for both countries' national commodities through their mass media.
3. The Egyptian side will provide two VHF channels to cover the television transmission of the south station, which will be completed during 1987.
4. To hold bilateral coordination regarding the accurate transfer [al-tarhil al-daqiq] of the Al-'Arish television station, as well as Jordanian television coverage of the Gaza coast area and Al-'Arish.
5. To expedite an initial study to survey the Red Sea region and nominate the representative of the Jordanian side in the survey operation.

6. To continue coordination and cooperation in all activities in the media field.

XI. In the field of manpower:

The committee reviewed the great achievements realized in this sector, especially regarding work and residence permits. It decided:

1. To continue the exchange of visits between both sides regard-

ing vocational training systems and social insurance systems in both countries.

2. To supply the Jordanian side with educational aids, bulletins, documents, and lectures which will be exchanged in accordance with the signed joint statement.

3. To supply the Egyptian side with the lists of required jobs in the Jordanian market.

XII. In the health field:

The committee looked into what has been achieved in this sector. It decided:

1. To call for a meeting by the ministers of health in both countries to discuss cooperation and exchange of expertise in the health and pharmaceutical fields and to reach a decision considering medicine registered in one of the two countries as registered in the other country. Until this is achieved, measures regarding the registration of medicines will be facilitated.

2. To entrust a committee with preparing a feasibility study for establishing a joint Jordanian-Egyptian company for producing pharmaceutical raw materials and supplies.

XIII. Consular yields:

Egyptian banks will expedite the transfer of the yields of the Jordanian consulate in Cairo in accordance with the exchange rates announced by the foreign currency center plus the allowance [as published] after the competent Egyptian quarters agreed to executing these transfers on a reciprocal basis.

XIV. In the field of consolidating steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories:

The technical committee shall be entrusted with preparing a joint working paper for marketing the products of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

XV. In the judiciary field:

Egyptian quarters were urged to expedite the ratification of the Jordanian-Egyptian judicial cooperation agreement.

It has been decided to convene the seventh session of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee in Cairo during October 1987.

Signed in Amman, Thursday, 10 Ramadan 1407 Hijrah, corresponding to 7 May 1987.

For the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; for the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Al-Khatib Denies Limiting of USSR Peace Role

JN121848 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1810 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Amman — In a statement to *Reuter* today, Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib categorically denied that Jordan has pledged to limit the USSR's role in the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East. The minister was replying to a question by the *Reuter* correspondent on a report by *The New York Times* that Jordan had made such a pledge. Al-Khatib reiterated Jordan's firm stand that the invitation to such a conference should be extended to all the parties concerned with the Middle East crisis, including the PLO.

Al-Khatib said the USSR must fully participate in the international conference, as is the case for all the UN Security Council permanent members.

Agreement Reached To 'Freeze' Karami Resignation
JN121902 Doha QNA in Arabic 1832 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Damascus, 12 May (QNA) — During talks in Damascus between a Lebanese political delegation and Syrian officials, it was agreed to freeze [tajmid] Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami's resignation. This came in a statement by responsible Lebanese sources to a QNA correspondent in Damascus.

Sources in the Lebanese presidential delegation said that, in the course of the discussions with Syrian officials, the delegation submitted a proposal whereby Karami would be asked to form a broader Lebanese Government that would include all the country's political parties, factions, currents, and religious officials.

According to the sources, it was also agreed to start without delay a process of consultations with all parties concerned. The goal of these contacts is to remove the reasons that prompted Karami to resign. However, this will be done only if Syria makes similar efforts with Lebanon's nationalist forces to acquaint them with their likely outcome.

The sources expect the Lebanese presidential delegation to return to Damascus on Thursday with limited answers to the proposals presented at the recent talks in the Syrian capital. The sources noted that in light of these replies, a decision will be made on whether or not to accept or reject Karami's resignation.

USSR Plays 'Active Role' in Syria-Lebanon Talks
NC301814 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Beirut, 30 Apr (MENA) — The Lebanese newspaper *Al-Nahar* says today that the Soviet Union is playing an active role in stimulating the Syrian-Lebanese talks in order to reconcile the two countries and ultimately achieve an inter-Lebanese accord.

The paper adds that the first result of the visit to Moscow by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was the efforts that are being made to reestablish contacts between Damascus and Beirut with a view to setting a date for the resumption of Lebanese-Syrian talks.

The paper refers to the Soviet Union's order of priorities. In this regard, the paper says a Syrian-Lebanese agreement takes third place for the Soviet Union, after the unification of the Palestinian factions and a Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement.

The paper comments on the Soviet Union's chances of bringing about a Syrian-Palestinian agreement, and subsequently a Syrian-Lebanese accord. *Al-Nahar* contends that it will not be easy to arrive at an agreement or rapprochement between the PLO and the Syrian leaders, particularly when wounds are still fresh and the gulf of differences and hatred is still wide.

In conclusion, *Al-Nahar* writes: A renewal of fighting in any Palestinian camp, for whatever reason, will be enough to end rapprochement efforts and to render them futile.

Car Bomb Kills Syrian Soldier in West Beirut
NC130815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] A booby-trapped automobile rigged with 75 kg of dynamite exploded opposite the health center in the military beach area [in West Beirut] at 0900 today. The car, a BMW 2002, bears plate number 340575. The blast left a Syrian soldier dead and two others wounded, according to preliminary reports.

Syrian General Targeted
NC130944 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Beirut, May 13 (AFP) — A Syrian general was targeted in the car bomb explosion that killed Wednesday a Syrian soldier and wounded two others near the force's main headquarters in Moslem-dominated West Beirut, a Syrian military intelligence officer said.

The officer, Major Ahmad Khudru, told *Agence France-Presse* that the blast was aimed against Syrian General Hashim Mu'alla, who moments earlier had passed the car on his morning jog.

General Mu'alla heads the third military zone in West Beirut.

The vehicle, a grey BMW, was packed with 100 kilos (220 pounds) of TNT. It exploded by remote control at 9:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) by a checkpoint 200 meters (yards) from the Syrian's main headquarters at the beachfront Lebanese Officers' Club and swimming pool.

A Syrian sentry was killed and two soldiers were badly wounded as they tried to clear the area of passers-by before checking the car, which appeared suspicious, Maj. Khudro said.

It was the 94th explosion in West Beirut since the Syrians entered the city on February 22 to end factional fighting, but the first to cause death among the troops.

Three Syrian Soldiers Said Killed in North
NC130509 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0455 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] A report from the north says two LAW [Light Antitank Weapon] rounds were fired at a Syrian patrol on Al-Basatin Road in Al-Bahsas at 0615 today. As a result, three Syrian servicemen were killed, including an officer from the Ka'bah family.

Israeli Defense Minister Tours Southern Villages
NC121730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] According to this evening's news reports, Yitzhaq Shamir, the enemy's war minister, [name and title as heard] inspected positions held by the occupation forces in the villages of southern Lebanon today. His visit came amid heavy activity by Israeli

helicopters over the south, particularly over the villages of Kafra and Yatar, from 1430 to 1900.

In another development, large numbers of Zionist enemy vehicles were spotted moving near Rshaf, Haddathah, Dibil, 'Ayn Ibil, and Jabal Humayyad-al-Qawzah. A helicopter was also seen landing in the same area, and a Merkava tank was deployed 150 meters away from the post at Al-Huqban.

Group Urges Unity in 'Resistance Operations'

NC130616 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic

0430 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The General Civil Resistance [Al-Muqawamah al-Madaniyah al-Shamilah] issued a statement yesterday urging everyone to unify resistance operations to thwart the U.S.-sponsored Zionist designs. The organization warned against using the liberated areas to fire rockets at Zionist settlements as this would endanger the course of resistance.

Al-Shar' Returns From Brief Visit to Tehran
JN130609 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 0415 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tehran last night after conveying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. Al-Shar' had earlier met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Further on Visit

For reportage on the trip to Iran by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', see the Iran section of the 12 May South Asia *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Al-Na'ib Receives Envoy, al-Qadhdhafi Letter
JN121538 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 1415 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, has received 'Abd al-Qadir al-Waraqli, head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Damascus, who handed him a letter from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi for President al-Asad. They discussed current Middle East developments and our brotherly bilateral relations.

TISHRIN Says Damascus Preparing 'Liberation War'
JN121234 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 0415 GMT 12 May 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon on the Road to Tranquility and Security," *Al-Ba'th* says: Every time there is a relaxation in the Lebanese situation, which has been plagued by crises for many years, the Lebanese rally more tightly around Syria and its redemptive role in Lebanon. This is especially true now that all parties realize this role has always sought to restore security and stability to all parts of Lebanon. On another level, all the fraternal Lebanese now realize that any relaxation in this Lebanese situation will prompt all of Lebanon's enemies to sabotage it halfway through and undermine and paralyze its effectiveness as much as possible. This is to prevent this relaxation from becoming a prelude to a new period in which the Lebanese can achieve final stability, which terrifies Lebanon's enemies and foils their schemes and plans — which have been hatched for the entire 12 years of the crisis.

Hence, Syria has always called on the Lebanese every time they achieve a security accomplishment with Syria's support and backing; to utilize this accomplishment, to make certain that it is not undermined, and to beware of the maneuvers and schemes being hatched by Lebanon's enemies to undermine security in Lebanon and restore the vicious cycle of chaos and violence to Lebanon. The success and consolidation of the security plan in West Beirut has revived the confidence of all the Lebanese that

the unusual state of war and infighting can be ended, thus turning Lebanon into an oasis of security, the aspiration of all the Lebanese. The success of this plan also makes the Lebanese realize the need for complete cooperation with Syria and to rely on Syria to help them return to the normal state of affairs in which all factions and parties can reach a reconciliation on the basis of accord and fraternity.

Syria has spared no effort in helping Lebanon during all the phases of the crisis which plagued it to achieve security and political relaxation and has also helped Lebanon provide the suitable circumstances for concluding a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese situation in its entirety. Syria today believes as it has always believed, that all the Lebanese must agree on a national pact that realizes the interests of all the Lebanese and rectifies the faults in the various aspects of the Lebanese situation and on the basis of which the new Lebanon will play its national and pan-Arab role, beginning with the confrontation of Israel and the liberation of Southern Lebanon.

Under the headline "Zionist-U.S. Hostility," *Tishrin* says: The United States and Israel believe that the UN-sponsored international peace conference would not bring peace to the region and that separate and direct talks which complement the conspiracy of the Camp David accords will bring peace. The separate and direct talks enable them to benefit from those Arab regimes that are allied to the United States and Israel within the framework of the Camp David accords. The direct talks also enable the Zionist entity to impose its conditions on the Arabs. Furthermore, these talks enable the United States to meet its obligations toward Israel, thus gaining control over the region's resources. This is exactly what the United States and the Zionist entity want. Therefore, they are working to hinder attempts to convene the international conference. The latest U.S. statement in this regard was made by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, who said during his current tour of the region that the United States believes that direct bilateral talks and not the international conference are the key to reaching a solution to the Middle East conflict.

The Zionist efforts to hinder the convening of the international conference are embodied by the continued schemes and the meetings and consultations which seek to hinder the convocation of the conference and consecrate the Camp David accords, despite the alleged sharp differences between those who support the conference idea and those who reject it, and also despite the circulated rifts on the ideas and opinions of both Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres. The Zionist entity will remain unchanged, and its leaders do not disagree on enmity toward the Arabs and the establishment of a state that extends from the Euphrates to the Nile. Purely partisan considerations are behind the apparent differences between the stands of Israeli leaders on the conference. Arab rights are impervious to liquidation, as they are inalienable and can never be bypassed. These rights can only be restored through Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Israel is fooling itself if it thinks it can go on usurping Arab rights. The Arab masses' will to resist is strong, and Syria, along with its masses in the Arab world, is preparing what it needs to launch the liberation war and recover usurped rights.

Radio Urges Arab Unity on 'Decisive' Issues
JN091347 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 1130 GMT 9 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The issue of Arab relations under today's circumstances assumes a certain significance in view of current international developments affecting the Middle East and active efforts to create a climate conducive to serious consideration of the idea of an international conference on the Middle East. The Arabs are, or should be, the most interested parties in what is happening regarding the region's crisis in the international sphere. They should not merely stand by or show indifference; they should attempt to actively influence all which concerns them and their causes. They should also benefit from all available positive international factors under all circumstances and at all times.

The Arabs can have international influence if they unify ranks on certain stands on which agreement should be the minimum level of commitment to the pan-Arab cause. This influence would undoubtedly affect the progress of international efforts to tackle hotbeds of tension, war, and instability in the region if they: first, agree on a unified stand; and second, actively place this unified stand on the scale which in one arm holds the cards of the United States, Israel, and their followers and in the other holds the cards of a just regional peace. This is in the interest of the Arabs and their legitimate aspiration to liberate their occupied land and regain their usurped rights.

The Arabs may be permitted to disagree among themselves on many issues, including ruling systems, borders, and natural resources. However, sound logic says it is irrational for them to disagree on pan-Arab issues and the decisive conflict with the first and foremost true enemy of the Arabs, Israel, which is unreservedly supported by U.S. imperialism.

The danger of Israel's expansionist schemes is not confined to certain Arab regimes. It is a real and present danger which threatens all Arab regimes and countries without exception. It does not differentiate between a republic and a monarchy, a progressive regime or a so-called moderate one, an Arab country on the contact lines with Israeli forces and one hundreds or thousands of kilometers away. Israeli air raids on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, Tunisia, and Lebanon are the greatest proof.

Israel realizes that all Arabs are enemies of its hostile, expansionist schemes to establish a Zionist empire from the Nile to the Euphrates. Therefore, Israel deals with all Arabs on this basis and prompts the United States to do the same, while some Arabs have not yet adopted the natural stand of self-defense and the fight for survival. Some may regard this talk to be slightly exaggerated. However, who would have believed in 1948 that Zionist gangs would usurp Palestine and other Arab territories and even occupy the capital of an Arab country?

The danger of Israel is not a theory, an illusion, or a mystery. It is a real danger which exists and is active and derives its strength from its organic, strategic alliance with U.S. imperialism. When Arabs become truly convinced, and not just by resolutions on paper, they will find themselves forced to come together, give priority to their commitment to the pan-Arab fight over all secondary ones, and cooperate with all true friends and sincere allies to wage the decisive battle against Israel in all fields.

Council of Ministers Reviews Agricultural Issues
JN111427 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 1115 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. Discussions centered on agricultural issues, as well as policies and measures to increase areas under cultivation and their output. The Council of Ministers reviewed a decision by the Higher Agricultural Council regarding increases in the price of wheat, barley, lentils, and chick-peas to be purchased from farmers during the 1987 season. This rise in prices is viewed as a basic development of the price policy in the agricultural area, and as an encouragement to farmers to double their efforts and income.

Discussions also touched on Syrian sheep as a form of basic wealth, as well as ways to develop it and meet all the needs of this sector. The Council of Ministers then examined other topics presented to it. After these discussions, the Council endorsed an agreement between the Syrian Oil Corporation and the Soviet Tekhnoexport establishment on the integrated development of new oil and gas fields. The Council also approved an agreement with the Soviet Union on economic and technical cooperation in phosphates, as well as the accord's protocol pertaining to the extraction and transportation of phosphates and the growth of Syria's mines. In addition, the members of the Council studied a number of other items and made appropriate decisions on them.

Inner Cabinet Adjourns Without Decision

Peres: Peace Process at End

TA130934 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0855 GMT 13 May 87

[Talk between political correspondent 'Oz Frankel outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and program moderator Rafi Reshef in the studio — live with recorded remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres]

[Text][Frankel] The Inner Cabinet session has just ended. It was attended by intelligence experts who evaluated the positions in the Arab world regarding the peace process. The bottom line is that the Likud was not convinced, nor did it convince the Alignment, and the Inner Cabinet did not make a decision. Both Shamir and Peres opted for not submitting draft proposals to the Inner Cabinet. We heard Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The basic result is that the Inner Cabinet session is over. I did not officially raise any proposal because the outcome was known in advance, and there was no sense in driving ourselves into an impossible and futile technical position. The Inner Cabinet is split. I do not think we must present an ultimatum to the Likud, just as I do not think the Likud should present us with an ultimatum. Ultimatums or technical tricks are unacceptable to one and all. Therefore, the right solution is to turn to the people and ask them to decide.

In my opinion, the attempt to do away with my proposal on the matter means the end of the peace process. There is no other proposal on how to proceed with the peace process. The idea of telling the Jordanians to come to direct negotiations other than through an international opening is doomed; everybody, without exception, believes that.

The government's basic guidelines included several issues, one of them being the peace process. Termination of the peace process — never mind if this is couched in nice words, the fact is that an end is being put to the peace process — means that the basic guidelines are being violated. We are not formalists; we do not deal with legal issues alone, but rather with issues of peace and the absence of it, of peace and war. Terminating the peace process does away with one of the basic principles — perhaps the most important one — of the current coalition agreement.

A government is neither bought nor sold. Even if there are certain Knesset members who are up for sale, this is not how things are done. We should turn to the people as should any democratic regime. There are two schools of thought, and each one has its own motives. So, let the people decide; there is nothing more fair than that.

[Political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami] Have you approached the prime minister, as you said you would, and proposed to him that you should appeal to the people together and let them decide?

[Peres] Yes, I did. I suggested that we should appeal to the people together, because we have gone different ways. [end recording]

[Frankel] We also asked the prime minister whether he intends to remain in the government even if elections are not moved up, and he replied in the affirmative. He believes that he represents 50 percent of the people. He does not plan to quit the government and he intends to go on working for the peace process, despite the fact that there is no decision.

And another small piece of news: The foreign minister has at the moment apparently called off his plan to leave for the United States this evening. He will stay in Israel and may leave later this week.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 May reports that Peres will leave for the United States on 14 May. The text of the report is published below.]

[Anchorman Rafi Reshef] Let me understand something: Your explanation was very interesting, but I did not understand what Shim'on Peres hopes to achieve by postponing or calling off the vote.

[Frankel] Given the current circumstances, he hopes not to lose. Had his proposal been put to a vote, the Inner Cabinet would obviously have defeated it. A tie is tantamount to a defeat. Then the world would have realized that the foreign minister cannot pursue his peace efforts. Had his proposal been defeated, it would have meant that the Israeli Government had rejected his proposal.

[Reshef] You said that he is not leaving for the United States this evening. So, what happens now?

[Frankel] First of all, I assume that the political consultations will continue. The foreign minister — whose car we now see leaving the parking lot outside the Prime Minister's Office — is now going to confer with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. Labor Party leaders will also hold consultations and an attempt will be made to attain a majority in the Knesset in order to bring elections forward. If a majority is not attained, the Alignment will continue to sit in the government and Shim'on Peres will continue to travel around the world promoting the cause of peace.

[Reshef] There was no vote, but there is a tie in the Inner Cabinet.

[Frankel] Indeed, there is.

Parties Differ on Session Results

TA131022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The Alignment ministers will meet within 2 hours and the Likud ministers 1 hour later to discuss the results of the Inner Cabinet session regarding the international conference. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that new differences of opinion have emerged between the two parties over the conclusion of the session.

At the end of the session, the prime minister said that in view of the fact that Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' proposal had not been accepted, the foreign minister does not have a mandate

to work for the cause of the conference in the international arena. Mr Peres has said that this conclusion is illegal because his proposal was not put to any vote whatsoever, and that in any event he does not consider this the last word.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that the Alignment will not be able to live with a situation whereby no decision is made on the continuation of the peace process, and that elections should consequently be held.

Mr Shamir said that the national unity government can and must continue its tenure and that he is convinced that the government's basic guidelines constitute a sufficient and appropriate framework within which the entire government can perform.

At the same time, our correspondent points out that Mr Shamir did not raise his proposal for a reduced conference in the Inner Cabinet session. On the other hand, he said that the government's adherence to the Camp David agreement is self-evident. This is an international agreement binding on Israel, Egypt, and the United States.

As said, the Alignment and Likud ministers will convene separate sessions this afternoon to discuss the implications of the Inner Cabinet meeting. Mr Peres has announced that he will not leave for the United States today, but may depart later this week.

Peres: People Must Decide on Peace Process
TA131041 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1012 GMT 13 May 87

[News conference with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem at the end of the 13 May Inner Cabinet session — recorded]

[Excerpt][Passage omitted][Political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami] Have you approached the prime minister, as you said you would, and proposed to him that you should appeal to the people together and let them decide?

[Peres] Yes, I did. I suggested that we should appeal to the people together, because we have gone different ways. We are 50 percent of the national unity government and we must exchange one solution for another; we do not propose to leave any vacuum. The alternative to this government is elections. The results of the last elections are that the Alignment received 44 mandates while the Likud received 41, and I do not need any additional mandate from any of the Likud members. We received our mandates directly from the people. I do not suggest that we cancel this government and set up a government led by the Likud. The government did not decide or determine this.

[Ben-'Ami] Can you proceed with the peace process now?

[Peres] First of all, there is nothing to prevent me from doing so, because there is no decision to bar me from it. For 2 and 1/2 years I have been working on this process and everybody knows this; I submitted the issue to the Knesset on four occasions. And, what is more, it is rude to say that I have been working behind somebody's back. Nobody barred me; even Mr Shamir himself

said that I could go on exploring the situation. Mr Shamir did not table a proposal which would bar me from doing this. He can announce whatever he wants; anybody can make whatever announcements he wants. Had Mr Shamir brought such a proposal to the Inner Cabinet, the result would have been a tie and his proposal would have been defeated. Not only did I not raise a proposal but neither did he, for the very same reasons. Had any such proposal been raised under the present circumstances, it would have been defeated.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you leaving for Washington tonight, Mr Peres?

[Peres] No, I will not be leaving for Washington tonight.

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent]

[Peres] The government persists and so does the policy. As a decision must be made on how to proceed with the peace process, we must turn to the people. This is not child's play. This affects our children and the future of our country.

[Unidentified correspondent] And when will you approach the people?

[Peres] When there is a majority in the Knesset. We must now look for a majority in the Knesset. All the speculations in the media about this or that kind of majority are premature and unfounded. I suggest that we do not rush to any conclusions.

[Ben-'Ami] Will today's debate in the Inner Cabinet continue?

[Peres] If one of its members asks for it, certainly. Moreover, we remain on speaking terms and there is no chaos. The situation now is that the same policy continues because nobody formally requested to discontinue it, just as nobody formally requested to endorse it. Therefore, the previous situation remains in effect. With all due respect to Mr Shamir's announcement and my own, these are mere announcements and not decisions.

Labor Communique Calls on Shamir To Resign
TA131027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1020 GMT 13 May 87

[Report by Razi Barqay]

[Text] The Labor Party has issued an official, sharply-worded communique. It states as follows: The Labor Party is calling upon the prime minister to resign at once. The Labor Party says that Yitzhak Shamir is unfit to serve as Israel's prime minister. The person who opposed the withdrawal from Lebanon and was indifferent to Israel's economic recovery is currently blocking — without even trying to check out the facts — one of the rare chances in Israel's history to make peace.

This is the text of the sharp communique issued by the Labor Party, and, based on precedents from the past few days, the Likud will undoubtedly come up with a communique in reaction to this one very shortly.

Party Positions on Early Elections Outlined
TA130758 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
 13 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Benny Morris]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Regarding the possibility of early elections, Labour appears to be at a disadvantage in the Knesset "numbers game." The party has only 56 or 57 assured votes favouring such elections, comprising its own 40 members, MAPAM's six, the Citizens Rights Movement's [CRM] four, and Shinui's two or three, with Shinui MK [Knesset Member] said to be conducting negotiations on a crossover to Likud.

Fifty-six votes are expected against early elections, including the Likud's 41, Tehiya's five, the National Religious Party's five, Agudat Yisrael's two and MK's Aharon Abu Hatzera, Yiga'el Hurvitz, Avraham Verdiger and Meir Kahane.

The position of the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], hitherto seen as a sure vote for early elections, remained unclear yesterday. Although party spokesmen dismissed MK Matityahu Peled's statement on Monday that the party would vote against early elections as a signal to Labour of the wish to be "consulted," political observers believe that the PLP is so fragmented and strife-ridden that it has no wish to face elections at this time.

The SHAS [Sephardi Torah Guardians] Party is seen as holding the key to early elections, and has been heavily courted by both Labour and Likud in the past few days. Both parties admit, however, that SHAS "is in nobody's pocket."

SHAS leader Yitzhak Peretz met again with Peres yesterday but said after the meeting that SHAS's spiritual mentors, the Council of Torah Sages, would decide on the party's attitude to new elections only after Peres's return from the U.S.

While trying to sway the party to support — or resist — early elections, both Labour and Likud have also been proposing different ways of resolving the Reform convert registration issue in order to facilitate Peretz's return to the cabinet. The proposals, which include an agreement to temporarily "freeze" the registration of converts provoked a complaint to the attorney-general by MK Shulamit Aloni [CRM] yesterday. Aloni alleges that a freeze is illegal.

She also complained about the political involvement of former chief rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, which she said was illegal. Yosef, a leader of the Council of Torah Sages, met with Shamir on Monday and is intimately involved in the current political negotiations. Yosef is also a member of the Council of the Chief Rabbinate and serves as a dayan (religious court judge). The High Court has forbidden dayanim from engaging in politics.

Labour's hopes for Knesset support from Tehiya also collapsed yesterday as the party announced, following a meeting with Shamir, that it was withdrawing its motion for early elections in light of the prime minister's adamant opposition to an international conference.

The Tehiya secretariat is to meet today to discuss the issue. MK's Rafa'el Eytan and Gershon Shafat still favour early elections, party sources said last night.

But Labour maintains that the government's precarious situation, with one major partner actively seeking its dissolution and so many individual Knesset votes up for grabs, cannot continue for long.

Likud Sources: U.S. 'Ambivalent' to Conference
TA130720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
 13 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] The Americans made "a grave error" by trying to persuade Prime Minister Shamir to back Foreign Minister Peres' peace conference initiative. "Had they not pressed Shamir so, perhaps he would have been more conciliatory," said a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

The source said that Shamir's "anger" at yesterday morning's Likud Knesset faction meeting was in "reaction to the leak of the message by (Secretary of State George) Shultz" on Sunday, which urged Shamir to support the international conference initiative as the only available means for triggering direct Israeli-Jordanian negotiations. Shamir, said the source, "was incensed by the leak." Shamir feels that the recent spate of notes from Washington, generally favouring Peres' position, is akin to "interference in internal Israeli affairs."

The source said that Shamir was not unduly perturbed by the American position because "he feels that the (Israeli) public is behind him."

Likud sources yesterday said that "Peres essentially put the Americans in a difficult position. The U.S. had long opposed an international conference, as had Peres. Suddenly, Peres changed his position. The Arab leaders then went to Washington and said: 'Everybody is for a conference, even Peres. You alone oppose it.' So the Americans felt obliged to fall into step."

These Likud sources feel that America remains basically ambivalent about the conference proposal, and that Washington's support for Peres' position "may be temporary (and may vanish) once the initiative dies in Israel. I don't think they are firmly committed to the conference," said the sources.

They added that a measure of Washington's lack of enthusiasm was that the U.S. had failed to meet two of Peres's "original scenario requirements: The U.S. had failed to adopt the conference proposals and publicize and broadcast them as an American plan. Washington did not push the conference as it did, say, the 'Reagan plan' in 1982. And Washington did not send Shultz to the region to carry out a shuttle, which Peres wanted, to instill momentum and euphoria into the proposals."

These American failures, said the sources, "have left Peres somewhat frustrated. True, the U.S. has been pressing Shamir to fall into line. But they failed to go the extra inch, to give the

final push, without which Peres' (and Washington's) blandishments have proven useless."

Labour sources have stressed that while "the bottom line" of the American messages has been support for Peres, Washington has been "very careful" in couching these messages in tones amenable to Shamir.

The Americans, for instance, have gone out of their way to repeatedly and continuously stress their commitment to direct Israeli-Arab talks and to emphasize that the international conference framework is designed as a trigger to such talks, not as an end in itself.

Moreover, the American messages have always included or been accompanied by assurances that Washington in no way intends to interfere in internal Israeli affairs.

Peres To Leave for Shortened U.S. Tour 14 May

TA131115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced a short while ago that he will depart for Washington tomorrow night and that in the course of his visit he will confer with Secretary of State George Shultz. At the same time, Mr Peres will shorten his U.S. tour and return to Israel on Monday. He pointed out that what took place at the Inner Cabinet today will not stop him, and in any event he has no intention of involving the United States in Israel's domestic dispute.

'Secret' Novik Meeting Reportedly With Soviets

TA130914 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
13 May 87 p 1

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Dr Nimrod Novik, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' adviser, held a secret weekend meeting with Soviet officials. The meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, and it dealt with issues pertaining to the international conference. Novik left Israel last Friday and returned on Sunday.

No details about the meeting have been divulged, but according to sources in Jerusalem the visit was meant to promote the conference issue and reexamine the Soviet position on it. According to those sources, Novik tried to obtain a more flexible Soviet position in anticipation of the Inner Cabinet session held 2 days ago.

Mubarak Letter to Shamir Supports Conference

TA121446 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 12 May 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There has been an initiative by a foreign element to encourage the foreign minister's political plan:

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressing support for the plan to convene an international peace conference. He calls on Israel to take advantage of the opportunity that has been created in the peace process.

Mubarak's letter is an indirect response by the Egyptian president to Shamir's claims that an international conference would not only harm Israel, but Egypt as well.

This afternoon Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni was summoned to the Prime Minister's Office, where he was given Shamir's written reply to Mubarak's letter.

Egypt Considering U.S. Compromise Plan on Tabah

TA122000 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 May 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] In a secret meeting in Geneva last week among Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. representatives, the Americans conveyed a compromise proposal on the Tabah dispute to Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, and to Nabil al-'Arabi, legal adviser of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

American sources have reported that the document deals with arrangements in the disputed area which, if accepted in principle by the sides, will prevent the necessity of prolonged deliberations by the arbitrators who are scheduled to convene in the next few weeks.

Tamir has left with Robi Sabel, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, for a lengthy visit to the Far East without giving the matter any publicity. Sabel has been holding quiet contacts with the Egyptians for many months now, and recently he has even met Al-'Arabi in London.

It has been reported that on the eve of the time Israel and Egypt are to present their claims to the arbitrators team, there are elements in Cairo who believe that serious consideration should be given to the possibility of an arrangement based upon joint management and making the area an international zone. Some Egyptian jurists, who have received information about the Israeli claims, have expressed concern that the arbitration process will not end in a favorable decision for Egypt, and they therefore have recommended holding quiet contacts in an attempt to reach an arrangement outside the arbitration process.

ROK Prepared To Discuss Representation in Seoul

TA121306 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] South Korea is prepared in principle to discuss the opening of an Israeli representation in Seoul. This was reported by Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir following talks with the South Korean foreign affairs minister. Mr Tamir clarified that in the initial stage a trade representation may be opened.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that an Israeli economic delegation will visit Japan in the fall and has also been invited to visit Seoul. The Israeli Embassy in Seoul was closed several years ago for budgetary reasons.

SLA Soldier Executed for Killing Druze Man

*TA121208 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
12 May 87 pp A1, A2*

[Report by Yosef Walter]

[Text] A soldier from the South Lebanese Army [SLA] who killed a Druze from the Al-Shuf Hills in the course of an argument was sentenced to death by a special court headed by General Antoine Lahd and executed by a firing squad.

The unprecedented decision by the commander of the SLA was aimed at preventing a clash between Druze and Christians and a chain reaction seeking blood revenge.

Israeli authorities learned about the execution after the fact. Gen Lahd explained that this was an internal Lebanese matter aimed at preventing further bloodshed. Israeli sources are also treating the matter as an internal Lebanese affair.

The incident occurred about a week ago. A soldier from the SLA was riding with his wife in his car in Jazzin, an area which is also under the rule of Gen Lahd but not in the security zone. Suddenly he was forced to stop behind another private car, which was

blocking his way, driven by a Druze from the Al-Shuf Hills. An argument developed between the soldier and the Druze, in the course of which the SLA soldier drew his pistol. His wife tried to stop him from shooting the Druze, but he paid no attention to her pleas. In his fury he pulled the trigger and killed the Druze.

The report of the Druze's death spread rapidly through the Druze villages in the Al-Shuf Hills. Not many hours passed before reports about preparations for blood revenge began flowing in. When the report reached the SLA commander, Gen Antoine Lahd, he ordered the instant arrest of the soldier and began making contacts with the Druze sect in order to find a solution that would prevent a chain reaction of blood revenge. From his contacts Lahd understood that if he were to execute the soldier, the Druze would regard the affair as over and blood revenge would not be taken.

Gen Lahd appealed to the soldier's father, told him what had happened, and informed him of his intention of judging his son in a special court and sentencing him to death. Lahd explained to the father that his son would be killed in any event and that, if action were not taken quickly, many more of his family would be made to suffer.

After the conversation with the father, the soldier was tried and sentenced to death. That same day the man was made to stand in front of the firing squad and executed.

This is the first time that a soldier from the SLA has been executed following a death sentence.

ALGERIA

Minister Goes to Mauritania With Bendjedid Note
LD122143 Algiers Domestic Service in French
 1800 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The head of state today received the minister of transport before his departure for Mauritania. Rashid Benyelles is carrying a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to President Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya.

LIBYA

New Maltese Premier Vows To Maintain Relations
LD131127 Tripoli JANA in English 1050 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Valletta, Malta [May] 13, *Jamahiriyyah News Agency* — The new prime minister of Malta, Mr. Eddie Fenech [Adami], has stressed that his government will keep up the distinctive relations between Malta and Great al-Jamahiriyah.

He points out that his government will abide by the cooperation and friendship treaty between the two countries.

In his first comments after being sworn in, Mr. Fenech has stressed that his government will keep up the cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union.

SUDAN

SPLA Blames Khartoum for Deaths in Plane Downing
EA121700 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English
 1300 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Major Salba Kiir Mayar Dit, member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for operations and security, has said that while the movement regrets the tragic deaths of the innocent people in the plane that was shot down over Malakal by SPLA air defense unit of Fashoda Battalion on the 5th of this month, the movement has no apology to make because it was Khartoum's intention to push [as heard] those victims to their deaths.

Talking to Radio SPLA correspondent at his general headquarters, Maj Salba pointed out that the Khartoum government and those who allegedly chartered the plane must bear the responsibility for the death of the innocent people. He stressed that the movement does not object to any assistance that may be extended to the population in War Zone One, but that such assistance must

be channeled through the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, SRRA, which is an independent body.

In conclusion, the deputy chief of staff said that the shooting down of this plane has betrayed Al-Sadiq's plans of using civilian planes to carry military equipment to his besieged garrisons in War Zone One.

SPLA To Shoot Down Unauthorized Aircraft
EA121709 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese
People's Liberation Army in English
 1300 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The SPLM-SPLA leader, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, has received a message of congratulations from Major Salba Kiir Mayar Dit, member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for operations and security, and commander of the 4th Axis Command, on the recent shooting down of the plane over Malakal town by SPLA air defense unit of Fashoda Battalion under the command of Captain Oyai Deng Ajak.

In his message, Maj Salba pointed out that the shooting down of the plane has demonstrated the movement's capability to defend the air space under its control and discredits Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his policy of pursuing a military solution to Sudan's fundamental problems. The question of eliminating the SPLM-SPLA politically and militarily, he said, must be ruled out.

The deputy chief of staff for operations and security also sent a similar message of congratulations to the commander of Fashoda Battalion, officers and men of Fashoda Battalion, and urged them to be more vigilant until victory is achieved. Any aircraft that enters the SPLM-SPLA air space without permission, he said, must be shot down without prior warning.

TUNISIA

Destourian, FLN Parties Begin Talks in Tunis
LD122258 Algiers Domestic Service in French
 2200 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Political talks between the FLN and Destourian parties started this evening in Tunis within the framework of a regular dialogue between the political bureaus of the two parties. The talks are led on the Algerian side by Messrs Messaadia and Taleb Ibrahim and on the Tunisian side by Prime Minister Rachid Sfar and the Destourian Socialist Party Director Ben Dhia.

The meeting will examine matters of common interest pertaining to the Maghreb, the Arab world, and Africa, Mr Messaadia said on arrival in Tunis.

KENYA

Paper on Campaign Against 'Foreign Meddling'
EA111012 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English
 11 May 87 p 6

[Editorial: "They're Defending Kenya's Stability"]

[Text] Kenya's unique stability, under President Daniel arap Moi's pragmatic and dynamic leadership, was at the weekend defended at the mammoth rallies held in Ngong and Nyeri.

At the Ngong Rally in the Rift Valley's Kajiado District, which was a follow-up to the earlier one held in Eldoret, its convenor, Hon Nicholas Biwott, hit out at the few self-exiled Kenyans currently hibernating abroad who were "shamelessly and unpatriotically slandering the motherland." The minister also castigated sections of the foreign press and "those very, very few intellectuals" who have been criticising Kenya's human rights record, "One of the best and stainless on the continent."

Addressing the same huge rally, the minister for finance, Prof George Saitoti, in his capacity as a member of the ruling party's Executive Committee, singled out "the few intellectual hirelings who were being paid a few shillings to slander their own country." He said some of the cowardly exiles took to flight after they had stolen peoples' money.

Judging by the unanimity with which all the speakers at the rally hit out at the country's critics, there's no doubt that Kenya's counter-offensive against foreign meddling and the few Kenyan political desperadoes who have been hired to tarnish their own country's good image, has gained momentum.

The genuine demonstration and manifestation of loyalty to the person and station of HE, President Moi, KANU and the government, that Wananchi and their leaders all over the country have been expressing, should serve as a warning to all the anti-Kenya alien mischief-makers (and their Kenyan decoys) that their conspiracy has flopped.

As we all know, many of Kenya's critics abroad hail from some of the countries where alleged offenders are arraigned on trumped up charges and, in fact, hanged, drawn and quartered. The same critics are now glorifying some of the African regimes whose temporary and despotic leaders are emulating such "examples" of legalised man's inhumanity to man.

Ethiopian Information Minister Arrives in Nairobi
EA111150 Nairobi KNA in English 0940 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Nairobi, 11 May (KNA) — The Ethiopian minister for information and national guidance, Mr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, has said that the foreign press was taking advantage of lack of strong and well-established news agencies in Africa to counter their adverse and distorted reports about the continent. He said that the only way Africa could fight back was to give financial and material support to the PANA news agency to be able to compete equally with other international news agencies.

Mr Gedle-Giorgis said this yesterday when he addressed a press conference at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport soon after arrival to start an official visit to Kenya which will enable him to hold [talks on] bilateral and continental issues with Kenyan officials.

He said that Africa was being scandalised in the foreign press to an extent that people in other continents have concluded that there was nothing good taking place on the continent except for wars and starvation. "PANA needs material and financial support and cooperation from member states to stand against this international phenomenon who [as received] misinform the world to enhance imperialism," he said.

He hailed the cordial relations existing between Kenya and Ethiopia and called for exploration of further avenues to cement the relations. He added that with good regional cooperation, countries in eastern, central and southern Africa would achieve a lot for the benefit of their people. The minister thanked the Kenya Government for the training it has been offering to Ethiopian students to study at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication to boost his country's media network.

Briefing the press about the food situation, Mr Gedle-Giorgis said that the situation was improving and hoped that with the current good rains his country, which suffered a serious food crisis recently, will produce enough food to feed her people.

The minister also hailed the current political development with the Somalia Government to solve the two countries longstanding border dispute and hoped more will be achieved to end frequent border clashes.

Mr Gedle-Giorgis was met at the airport by the Ethiopian ambassador to Kenya, Legesse Wolde Mariam. The Kenyan plane which carried him via Mogadishu arrived some minutes after 7.30pm.

Iranian Minister Criticizes Iraq, South Africa
EA121246 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 12, IRNA — Visiting Iranian Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati met with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi Monday and discussed with him Iran-Kenya ties and other international issues.

During the meeting, Besharati said that Iran's foreign policy has been focused on non-aligned and Third World countries since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

The Islamic Republic has established political relations at the ambassadorial level with 20 African countries since the Islamic Revolution became victorious, Besharati elaborated.

Besharati, outlining atrocities committed by Iraq against Iran such as the bombing of Iranian cities, raids on ships and passenger planes and the repeated use of chemical weapons, reiterated the Iranian people's firm determination to continue their defensive war until Saddam Husayn's regime is toppled.

On the issue of apartheid, the acting foreign minister described apartheid, practiced by the Pretoria regime and encouraged by colonial countries, as the "ugliest" phenomenon of the 20th century. "Apartheid and Zionism" are two faces of the same coin, he added.

Iran has always condemned such an "inhuman" phenomenon (apartheid) and has supported the African Frontline States in their fight against apartheid, stressed Besharati.

In response, the Kenyan president said that in the post-revolution period effective steps have been taken towards expanding Tehran-Nairobi relations. He also expressed willingness to pay a visit to Tehran.

Besharati also held talks with his Kenyan counterpart and economic minister in Nairobi yesterday on bilateral relations.

Minister Calls for More Trade With Poland

EA121233 Nairobi KNA in English 1010 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Nairobi, 12 May (KNA) — Kenya and Poland are set to revive the operations terms of a trade agreement signed between the two countries about 23 years ago, the minister for commerce and industry, Prof Jonathan Ngeno said today. The minister said that since the signing of the agreement in 1964 there has not been much trade between the two countries, and it was for that reason that he had visited Poland for discussions with the relevant authorities.

Prof Ngeno was speaking at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport shortly after arrival from Poland where he had led a three-man Kenyan delegation for talks regarding the trade agreement. The minister, the director of industries in his ministry, Dr Maurice Daugand, and the head of investment in the Industrial and Commercial Development Cooperation (ICDC), Mr Hosea Adohra, held talks with the Polish minister of foreign trade, Mr Andrzej Wojcik.

Describing the visit as fruitful, Prof Ngeno said that the parties agreed that there was need to review and revive the trade agreement for the benefit of the two countries. Included in the minutes that were drawn up, the minister said, was the need to set up a commission which could meet regularly to review trade and industrial co-operation. Also in the minutes was the need to encourage return visits by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of both countries so that they could identify export/import commodities. The parties also agreed to promote trade through international shows and trade fairs, the minister said.

While in Poland, the minister visited a few industries which, he said, were advanced in technology which Kenya could learn from. Presently Kenya imports industrial machinery from that country. Prof Ngeno said that trade between Poland and Kenya was very little, with just about 1,000,000 shillings worth of imports from Kenya by Poland. He called for more imports of Kenyan tea and coffee by Poland.

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Soviet Emissary

EA122012 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — Mr Ustinov, a Soviet emissary, says that the proposed resolution on international peace and security is not intended to be an alternative to the United Nations. He noted that the proposal made by the socialist bloc at the 41st session of the UN General Assembly concerns international security, as well as cordial relations among states.

He told reporters at Dar es Salaam International Airport before his departure for Moscow that the proposal, which will be submitted before the 42d UN General Assembly this year, was made in accordance with the UN Charter. The Soviet emissary, who arrived in the country on Saturday, held talks yesterday with Foreign Minister Benjamin Mkapa on various aspects of the proposal, particularly those concerning Africa and the Third World in general.

The envoy visited Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Angola before coming to Tanzania.

UGANDA

President Notes Plans To Expand, Develop Army

EA121149 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] President Yoweri Museveni has said the Army would continue to be strengthened in numbers and improved in quality in order to contain unfit elements bent on disturbing the peace and security of Ugandans. The president, who was officiating at a passing out parade of recruits in Mbarara, said the NRM [National Resistance Movement] government is now building a strong national modern Army. He stressed that as long as there are elements bent on disturbing the peace and security of Ugandans, the Army would continue to be strengthened in numbers. He said the major aim of the NRM government's policy regarding the Army is to expand the NRA [National Resistance Army] and to improve its quality. President Museveni told Ugandans to have confidence in the capacity of the NRA to deal with any eventualities.

Turning to soldiers, the president told them to be vigilant in search for peace in the country. He called upon them to intensify the struggle to safeguard the values of the revolution. He once again advised soldiers not to be misled by the politics of sectarianism and regionalism. He said the exercise of recruiting men and women from eastern and northern Uganda was a deliberate policy embarked upon soon after the war to deregionalize and detribalize the NRA. During the war, recruitment was done basically in the areas where the war was fought.

Amin Aide Claims Museveni 'Welcoming' Libyans
EA122013 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English
 12 May 87 p 24

[Text] The aide to the former Uganda dictator Idi Amin, Mr Robert Astles, has accused President Yoweri Museveni's government of welcoming Libyans to Uganda despite the battle he led against them. Mr Astles said: A great deal has been said about Amin. He certainly could behave outrageously when triggered by others.

He said much of the blame for the triggering must go to Libya, and the group ousting Amin unleashed such fury against Libyans by their propaganda that hundreds of their lives were lost. I find it incredible that the man who spoke most against Libyan presence and led the battle group Fronasa [Front for National Salvation], to destroy them, today welcomes them back into Uganda with open arms, Mr Astles said in a letter to *The Standard*.

Mr Astles, who lives in London said he was prompted to write after attending a lecture last week on Uganda today and tomorrow by some of Uganda's most devoted political elders. He said he was shocked to learn that the country that had produced many of Africa's early professionals in the field of medicine and science was being bartered away in a similar manner as in the days when Africans had no say in their destiny and when Africa was called the dark continent.

It seemed to me, as I listened to the Ugandans describe today's frustrations and the rape of a nation, that, but for the banning of the trade, Ugandans could today be sold off as slaves if some of those in power could get away with it. He said the barter system could only benefit a few, and added that the lecture was told Uganda was now going to barter the sweat of the Ugandans

labour, for which they were never going to receive their just rewards, to countries noted for their own backwardness. Certainly, the letter continued, such countries had no love or feelings for Ugandans, as the exiles had already experienced when attempting to take refuge from the boy soldiers and aliens now terrorising their own country.

'Successful' Border Talks Held With Sudan
EA121019 Kampala Domestic Service in English
 1900 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] A 14-man delegation from Arua District has held successful discussions with the authorities in southern Sudan centering on border security, repatriation of Ugandan refugees from Sudan, and return of Uganda vehicles still in Sudan. The civil-military delegation led by the acting district executive secretary, Mr (Angelo Drani), agreed with the Sudanese officials from Yei District to iron out any artificial differences between the two countries in a brotherly atmosphere.

The Uganda side said they had gone to Sudan not to complain to the Sudanese of what had happened in the past but to look for ways and means of solving any outstanding problem. They assured the Sudanese authorities that Uganda is now peaceful, contrary to the propaganda of Uganda criminals across the border, and that Ugandan refugees can now come back home.

The delegation advised the Sudanese officials to cross-check ownership of stolen Ugandan vehicles with Ugandan authorities before registering them in Sudan. They also pointed out that immigration and customs procedures should be observed by both sides, leaving (words indistinct) to work out the modalities for future meetings. The Sudanese side was led by Captain Jamal Tayrab, officer in charge of Kaia.

CAR

Illegal Fund Issue Raised at Bokassa Trial*AB121302 Paris AFP in French 1837 GMT 11 May 87*

[Text] Bangui, 11 May (AFP) — The management of state corporations' funds and the status of bank accounts opened in the name of the Central African Government during former Emperor Bokassa's reign were once again the topics at the 77th criminal court hearing today. According to observers at the trial, the court seems to be having greater trouble in clearing up the accusations of embezzlement against the former emperor, due to the complexity of the financial system that prevailed then.

Shortly before the trial resumed, General Prosecutor Gabriel Faustin Mbodou told AFP that the judicial session, which was to end on 15 April, "would probably be extended for a few days," adding that "the final decision will be made in the course of the week." During this 77th hearing, Barthelemy Kanda, the former general commissioner of the treasury, who had already been charged with complicity in the embezzlement of public funds at the end of March, was again heard by the court as a witness on the "advance fund," which enabled the state to defray the cost of missions by some members of the government during Bokassa's reign.

"No decree concerning the creation of that fund was ever signed and no manager appointed," the general prosecutor pointed out. Furthermore, another witness, Mr Jacques Selenguat, former director general of the CAR social security office, stated that in 1977 a 20 million CFA francs check was drawn, without his knowledge, on the accounts of that office for the benefit of the general commissioner of the public treasury.

CHAD

Ambassador Terms Libyan Announcement 'Trick'*AB121210 Paris AFP in French 2156 GMT 11 May 87*

[Text] Paris, 11 May (AFP) — Ahmad Allam-Mi, the Chadian ambassador in Paris, has used the phrase "a Libyan trick" to describe a story carried by the Libyan news agency JANA on Monday night. The agency claimed that Libya has handed over its remaining positions in northern Chad to Goukouni Oueddei's forces. Goukouni Oueddei was the leader of the GUNT (opposed to Ndjama) and was overthrown last November by pro-Libyan factions.

"This move is designed to camouflage Libya's occupation of northern Chad and, in particular, of the Tibesti region," the Chadian ambassador added in his remarks to AFP.

"Goukouni Oueddei's National Liberation Army (from the Tibesti region) has been officially integrated into the FANT [Chadian National Armed Forces] since November," he noted. He also expressed hope that the dialogue between Goukouni and the Ndjama authorities initiated in Algiers would continue.

Clashes which took place last October between Libyan forces and Goukouni Oueddei's troops, their former allies from northern Chad, modified the zones of supremacy in the field, thus facilitating the advance of Ndjama's troops, who are equipped by France and the United States.

Diplomatic observers in Paris and Tripoli said that the Libyan leader now recognizes he erred by alienating Goukouni Oueddei's troops, which are more familiar with the northern regions Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi is trying to win back. At the same time, he is struggling to delay any alliance between President Hisssein Habre's opponents.

Mr Goukouni was arrested and wounded in Tripoli after asking his troops to turn their weapons against the Libyans. He was officially overthrown at the end of last year at a meeting of Chad's pro-Libyan factions in Cotonou, Benin. He was replaced by Acheikh ibn Oumar, leader of a GUNT faction known as the Revolutionary Democracy Council.

Thanks to important diplomatic pressure and Chadian victories in the north of the country, Goukouni Oueddei was allowed to leave Tripoli for Algiers before beginning an African tour, which included meetings with President Habre's emissaries. Hisssein Habre, who was his comrade during the underground struggle, is originally from northern Chad.

Attempts to reconcile the two brother enemies from northern Chad have yet to be successful. According to the latest reports, Mr Goukouni is back in the Algerian capital. Meanwhile, the former GUNT president refused to see its current leader, Acheikh ibn Oumar, who went to meet him in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Comments on French Aid*AB120900 Paris AFP in French 1722 GMT 11 May 87*

[Text] Paris, 11 May (AFP) — Chad "has asked France to give it the means to completely free its territory," according to Ndjama's ambassador in Paris, Ahmad Allam-Mi. He also said here today that the French leadership has yet to "completely keep" its promises.

There is "a pledge by France to supply us with equipment, which we are expecting. The rescue plan (involving military aid) has not been fully implemented. The equipment delivered was less than what we requested," added the ambassador, who was addressing the European and African press.

Questioned on possible military operations to recapture the entire Aozou Strip, which is claimed by Tripoli and contains Libyan troops, Mr Allam-Mi answered: "It is a question of means. If we had the means, we would not hesitate even for a moment to liberate the Aozou Strip." He stated that Chad preferred to solve its problems through "dialogue."

The ambassador made a point of stressing that French civil and military aid, which he estimated at Fr1 billion a year in 1986, is "far more important" and that it is "appreciated greatly by Chadians and their leaders."

Mr Allam-Mi expressed satisfaction that France has decided to give logistic and humanitarian aid to people beyond the 16th parallel, which it had refused to cross until the day it made the decision. "There is nothing more natural and legitimate (...) in the cooperation between two independent and sovereign countries," he said, specifying that French intervention in the north (clearing mines and giving health assistance, particularly to the refugees) has not started yet.

On the humanitarian level, thanks to the air facilities at its disposal through the "Sparrowhawk" plan, France "has an effective role to play," he added, assuring that "there were neither misunderstandings nor differences" between the countries.

The Chadian ambassador was very careful not to show a single sign of triumph concerning the military situation. "Libya, he stressed, is preparing its revenge, organizing itself, building up troops in the Tibesti region and around Chad," and he estimated their troop strength at 7,000 men. [quotation marks as received]

He stated that the Libyans had constructed "an imposing airport" in the far north of the Aozou Strip, and that "a kind of replica of Ouadi Doum (the former Libyan garrison in northern Chad) was under construction at Maat-es-Sara" (a military base in southern Libya). The Libyan presence in Darfur Province (a Sudanese province bordering eastern Chad) has not been reduced either, he continued.

CONGO

PANA Reports on Country's Economic Difficulties AB121313 Dakar PANA in French 1421 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Brazzaville, 11 May (ACI/PANA) — The National Monetary Committee of Congo met at Pointe Noire (major Congolese city 515 km west of Brazzaville) on 7 May. It noted that setbacks in national economic activities observed at the beginning of 1985 increased rapidly in 1986.

According to a communique issued by the Bank of Central African States in Brazzaville on 9 May, these setbacks continued in early 1987 with the added effects of the drop in revenue from oil, the tight control on public spending, and the world economic crisis.

"These economic sectors have all been seriously affected by the recession," the communique stated, adding that "the outcome of the agricultural season is increasingly affecting the cash reserves of offices in charge of collecting major stocks."

The communique disclosed that there was an accelerated decline in the livestock and fishing sectors. On the other hand, the forestry sector achieved satisfactory results and recorded a revival in activity. Oil and mineral extraction remained stagnant.

The secondary and tertiary sectors, which were not spared, are undoubtedly the most severely affected by the world economic crisis. The rate of employment has fallen, and prices, both wholesale and retail, have been increasing rapidly.

Next, the committee examined the bank's monetary situation as of 28 February 1987, and the balance in the banking system on the same date.

The monetary situation in Congo in 1986 and in the first 2 months of 1987, which reflects the unfavorable development in the country's economic and financial position, was marked by a serious reduction in external assets, particularly slow growth in loans to the economy, and a sharp increase in the state's indebtedness to the monetary system.

The Central Bank's position on 28 February 1987 showed a considerable increase in aid to the state and to commercial banks, which are faced with insufficient cash reserves.

Cooperation Meeting With Senegal Ends AB122212 Dakar PANA in French 1423 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Brazzaville, 12 May (ACI/PANA) — Deliberations of the third session of the joint commission of cooperation between Congo and Senegal, held from 9 to 11 May in Brazzaville, ended yesterday with the signing of several documents on various aspects of bilateral trade.

According to the final communique, these documents concern agreements in the fields of commerce and the merchant marine, as well as draft accords on forestry, protection of nature, and cultural exchanges.

The minutes of the meeting signed by the two sides state that in the maritime field, courses will be organized, beginning at the end of this year, on the ships belonging to the "Dakar Marine" company. Congo and Senegal are bound by a 1975 agreement to promote this sector.

Concerning trade, the Congolese Center for External Trade [Centre Congolais du Commerce Extérieur] (CCCE) and the Senegal International Trade Center are expected to sign a draft agreement of mutual assistance drawn up by the joint commission. This agreement will replace the one concluded in February 1974, the minutes point out.

In the cultural field, the two countries undertook to intensify exchanges between their universities, especially in the instruction of Congolese students in Senegal, and in the exchange of experience in teaching. Senegal will reserve eight places for Congo in its fine arts institutions, the document states. Congolese and Senegalese experts, who stressed the complementarity of their countries' economies, agreed to organize the fourth session of the joint commission of cooperation in 1989 in Dakar.

South Africa Condemned AB122236 Dakar PANA in French 1440 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Brazzaville, 12 May (ACI/PANA) — Congo and Senegal have condemned "the electoral parody" orchestrated recently by the racist regime in Pretoria.

In a communique issued at the end of a session of the Congo-Senegal Joint Commission for Cooperation, Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga Oba and his Senegalese counterpart, Ibrahima Fall, point out the "violation of all the democratic principles and human rights" that characterized the elections.

Both countries particularly urged African states to maintain and increase "necessary pressures on the racist and minority South African regime." An appeal went to Africans to contribute significantly to the African fund for solidarity with the southern African peoples.

Concerning the other conflicts on the continent, the communique recalls both sides' desire "to see peace and national unity return to Chad in the respect of its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

As for the Western Sahara issue, Congo and Senegal urge the Polisario and Morocco "to implement the pertinent OAU and UN resolutions for a peaceful solution by organizing a self-determination referendum."

They also expressed the hope that Ethiopia and Somalia would settle the conflict in the Horn of Africa through "a negotiated solution in accordance with the OAU Charter."

GABON

Economic Cooperation With Senegal Discussed

*AB121940 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1830 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] The fourth session of the Gabon-Senegal Joint Commission for Cooperation began in Libreville this afternoon. The meeting in the Gabonese capital is designed to strengthen the commercial, cultural, scientific, and technical ties between the two countries. This fourth session is taking place amid an economic crisis that has spared neither country.

Ibrahima Fall, Senegal's minister of foreign affairs, who is leading his country's delegation, will be received soon by the Gabonese head of state, El Hadj Omar Bongo.

BENIN

Acting Head of State Meets Libyan Envoy
AB122225 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
 1930 GMT 12 May 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Romain Vilon Guezo, speaker of the Standing Committee of the National Revolutionary Assembly and acting head of state, received two officials in audience this afternoon. They are Brother Sa'id Hafiana, special envoy of the leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, and Shaykna Gayaki, a businessman. After the audience, Brother Sa'id Hafiana made the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording] (?My visit to Benin) is part of our bilateral relations and the process of periodic consultations on regional and international problems, with emphasis on those difficulties constantly facing our continent. My discussions with the vice president [as heard] centered on bilateral relations and the need for both countries to coordinate their efforts, particularly the efforts of progressive African states, to deal with a number of situations on our continent. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PRC Official Comments on Visit Before Departure
AB121625 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
 1930 GMT 11 May 87

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Chinese vice minister for the textile industry returned home yesterday. Before his departure, Comrade Ji Guobiao took stock of his visit to Benin in a statement to television correspondent Edouard Belengue.

[Begin Ji recording in Mandarin fading into French translation] During our stay in your country, we were received by the Beninese president and attended the inaugural ceremony of the Benin Industrial Textile Company [Societe Industrielle des Textiles], SITEX, in Lokossa. As far as SITEX is concerned, we signed the official document on the (?handing over) of this project with his excellency the minister of finance and economy. Moreover, during our visit to Benin we realized from our agenda, and we are happy to say this, that the relations of cooperation and friendship between our two states are excellent and will be strengthened further. Finally, before leaving your beautiful country, we would like to express our sincere thanks for the very warm and cordial welcome given us by the Beninese Government and people. [end recording]

BURKINA FASO

BBC on French Minister Visit, State of Relations
AB130850 London BBC World Service in English
 1709 GMT 12 May 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Ever since French President Mitterrand's visit to Burkina Faso last November and his fiery dialogue with President Sankara, there has been speculation in Ouagadougou that rela-

tions between the two countries were at an all-time low, so the arrival of the French minister of cooperation, Michel Aurillac, yesterday was viewed with considerable trepidation. From Ouagadougou, Jane Baxter cabled this report:

[Begin recording] It was rumored that when Michel Aurillac arrived in Ouagadougou yesterday, he would be delivering some tough conditions to the Burkinabe Government if it wanted continued French assistance. But as it turned out, Aurillac seemed to have arrived with a bag full of goodies and packages for President Sankara. At a meeting with journalists this morning, after his discussions with President Sankara, Aurillac seemed bent on trying to placate the Burkinabe Government and to woo it back to the French fold. He said he understood Sankara's wish expressed today that Burkina Faso be better understood in France and stated that relations had suffered because in the past the French had categorized Burkina as a far leftist country under the (?thumb) of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. This, Mr Aurillac said, was a mistake and is now being corrected.

He took pains to point out that France continued to contribute a lot to development projects there. He pointed to the new market in Ouagadougou, the hospital and airport in Bobo-Dioulasso, and announced that France would finance a major new hydroelectric dam which, he said, he hoped would help end power cuts like the one which greeted him yesterday on arrival in Ouagadougou. But he said France couldn't do everything and he was not Father Christmas.

There was little sign of the paternalism which marked much of President Mitterrand's dialogue here last year, and Aurillac made a great display of humility when he greeted Jean-Hubert Bazie, the editor of the satirical paper, *Intrus*. The paper had greatly incensed French diplomatic staff lately with its biting satire on France. Aurillac asked for a free subscription to the newspaper, which reflects opinions of the highest level of the Burkinabe Government, and Bazie gave it to him. It remains to be seen, however, whether this jovial display of good humor between old friends will help heal the rift between France and Burkina Faso. The best indication will be found in the *Intrus* later this week. [end recording]

GHANA

GBC Investigates Student Leader Cromwell's Arrest
AB122204 Accra Domestic Service in English
 1800 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] investigations have shown that the rearrest of Kakraba Cromwell last month in connection with the drug trafficking charges preferred against him in 1983 have absolutely nothing to do with his recent activities as a student leader, as is being alleged by some of his colleagues.

A top police source told the GBC today that Cromwell was first arrested in March 1983 and charged with the offense. He made a statement at that time admitting that he carried the drug. He was not put before court immediately because his accomplices could not be traced. He was then released on bail. But instead of

reporting twice a week to the police as he was required to do, he vanished and was believed to have left the country. The man who stood surety for him could not tell his whereabouts and later that man also disappeared.

Since then the Ghana police had requested Interpol to help arrest Cromwell. The police sources said they did not know that Cromwell had quietly returned to Ghana and resumed studies at the UST [University of Science and Technology], Kumasi.

Meanwhile, Interpol has sent messages to other countries to trace him. It was when his name was mentioned during the recent student negotiations with government on the funding of higher education that Interpol realized for the first time that he was in the country and proceeded to arrest him on the 13th of last month, as they were required to do, and handed him over to the Ghana police.

The police sources explained that the case against Cromwell had never been closed. Because of the international aspect involved in matters handled by Interpol, these cases take a long time. But Cromwell had never been pardoned. He was a wanted man and as soon as he was found, he had to be arrested.

According to the police, Cromwell will now be put before the court and tried just as similar marijuana suspects are being prosecuted. The police sources denied categorically that the case was being revived because of Cromwell's role in students riots in Kumasi.

Work Begins on Railway Rehabilitation Project *AB101915 Dakar PANA in English 1405 GMT 10 May 87*

[Text] Accra, 10 May (GNA/PANA) — Rehabilitation work started at the week-end on a 437-kilometer railway line in east and central Ghana that would help increase transportation of cocoa, timber and other exports to Ghana's ports and improve passenger traffic.

The project content includes complete track renewal, thorough sleeper renewal, maintenance and complete replacement of signaling and communications systems. It is estimated to cost 50 million U.S. dollars and is expected to be financed by the World Bank and Italian Government.

Ghana's secretary for transport and communications who performed the ceremony to mark the commencement of work said the negotiations with the World Bank and Italy for finances would be completed soon. In the meantime, the government has instructed the Ghana Railway Corporation to commence the rehabilitation because of the importance it attaches to the network.

The raillines will link Kumasi in the Ashanti Region to Accra and the Tema harbour, 25 kilometers east of Accra and Huni Valley to Kotoku in the central portion.

Last year, the first phase of the rehabilitation which involved the western railway line was completed with a 42 million dollar loan from the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

When the whole railway rehabilitation project is completed, it is expected that freight capacity will reach two million tonnes and passenger capacity 1.5 million a year. Risk of derailments is also expected to be considerably reduced.

PANA Director Rejects REUTER, AFP 'Allegations' *AB111754 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 May 87*

[Text] The director general of the *Pan-African News Agency* [PANA], Auguste Mpassi-Muba, has disclosed that two foreign news agencies, *Reuters* and *AFP*, have launched a credibility campaign against PANA. Mr Mpassi-Muba made this disclosure when he paid a visit to the offices of the Graphic Corporation in Accra.

He said the two agencies falsely claim that PANA's news items are officially censored [words indistinct] Mr Mpassi-Muba said he had attended a meeting in Paris to receive these allegations. He explained that even though the same person writes for PANA and *AFP* in Burkina Faso, the *AFP* tends to discredit PANA reports.

On efforts being made to generate funds for the agency, Mr Mpassi-Muba hinted that the agency will soon begin (?sending) news items to European countries where they have requested its services. According to him, PANA is also experimenting with the transmission of news items to the United States by satellite.

On collection and dissemination of news items on the African Continent, the director general said PANA is to hold a meeting with its counterparts in the Arab world, Asia, and Latin America for the exchange and dissemination of information about Third World countries.

The editor of the *People's Daily Graphic*, Mr Sam Clegg, urged PANA to continue steadfastly in its objective, otherwise it will end up becoming a conveyor belt for the big news agencies.

GUINEA

CMRN Official Receives SWAPO Representative *AB091052 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 8 May 87*

[Text] Major Kerfalla Camara, minister and permanent secretary of the CMRN, this morning received in audience Aaron Mushimba, SWAPO representative for West Africa resident in Dakar, Senegal. The Namibian nationalist used the opportunity to thank the Guinean people and their government for their constant and efficient support of the liberation struggle which the Namibian people have been waging for almost 25 years now.

[Begin recording in English fading into French translation] We are happy with the support the Guinean people are giving us. [end recording]

Mr Mushimba also gave a complete and detailed account of the situation in the field as well as of the program of reconstruction

in zones under SWAPO's control. To this end, he recalled that his organization is facing difficulties in the areas of transportation, training, and logistics. On the diplomatic level, Mr Mushimba expressed happiness with the support of the international community. He denounced the subtle maneuvers of certain governments that link Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

In response, Maj Kerfalla Camara reaffirmed the Guinean people's political, diplomatic, and material support for the Namibian liberation struggle.

Delegation of Soviet Historians Visits

*AB121900 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] A delegation of Soviet historians has been in our country since Saturday [9 May]. It has already held talks with the Association of Guinean Historians and has visited several tourist attractions in the capital.

The Soviet delegation will visit Conakry University today and hold discussions with Guinean and Soviet lecturers. Its members will meet officials of the national museum at (Sambrabaya).

Before their departure on Saturday, the Soviet historians will be received by the minister of information and culture and the secretary of state for higher education. In addition, the Soviets will tour the Districts of Dubreka and Koya.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Further Details on Economic, Social Reforms

AB080704 Paris AFP in French 2049 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] Bissau, 7 May (AFP) — In a radio and television address to the nation on Wednesday [6 May], President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau said the economic and social reforms adopted on Sunday by his government were the "only way to save the country from economic and financial collapse."

President Vieira said he was aware of the consequences these measures may have on groups in the country, notably civil servants. He admitted the measures were severe, but said they will in the future improve every citizen's standard of living.

Indeed, last Sunday, the Government of Guinea-Bissau launched a new political, monetary, and fiscal policy by devaluing the national currency, the peso, by 145 percent. The purpose of this devaluation is to "reflect the real exchange value" of the peso. After this measure, the American dollar, whose official exchange value is 265 pesos, will henceforth be worth 650 pesos.

The government also decided to enforce the real level of prices within the framework of its austerity measures by trebling fuel prices and quadrupling those of electricity. To increase state revenue, taxes and dues have been imposed on many commodities such as gasoline (10 percent), beer (85 percent), brandy (40 percent), and the exportation of cashew nuts (50 percent).

In addition, the government decided, as part of its economic program, to lay off 750 civil servants as from this year (a third of the 16,623 civil servants will be released by 1989), and to fix the retirement age at 60, with the possibility of retirement at 50 or after 15 years of service, regardless of age.

Consequently, the Guinean head of state appealed to his fellow citizens to make more sacrifices by showing responsibility, discipline, and internal cohesion in order to ensure the success of the package of measures that will finally permit the country's harmonious development. He announced that other steps will be taken in the next few days to cushion the adverse effects that the implementation of this austerity program may create.

Finally, General Vieira attributed his country's long-standing economic and financial difficulties to the heavy colonial legacy and the unrealistic policy followed in Guinea-Bissau.

LIBERIA

Cabinet Members Summoned for Questioning

AB121950 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Monrovia, May 12 (AFP) — In the wake of Liberian President Samuel Doe's repeated allegations of rampant corruption in government, several cabinet ministers and officials have been summoned to explain alleged malpractices within their agencies.

State radio reported Tuesday that the ministers of education, labour, health and social welfare, as well as joint security officials, would appear before the House of Representatives this week to clarify what the radio called "some burning issues of national concern."

The radio, quoting a statement from the capitol, said Education Minister Othello Gongar had been invited to the question of peddlers selling school text books at exorbitant prices. The Ministry of Education is the sole agency of government responsible for the importation of school books duty free for sale.

Mr. Gongar is also expected to explain the "mysterious disappearance" of foodstuffs donated by the charity CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere) from the ministry's warehouse.

Health Minister Martha Belleh is to answer or comment on allegations that birth certificates were being issued by her ministry without the official revenue receipts, the radio said. It also said Labour Minister Robert Tubman is to answer questions on the issuing of work permits to aliens without official revenue receipts.

Officials of the joint security body would answer questions on drug abuse by teenagers and others in society. The statement from the capitol charged that security officers who should fight against the use of drugs were themselves engaged in their use.

NIGER

Kountche Ratifies Draft National Charter
AB120844 Niamey Domestic Service in French
 1200 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, has signed two decrees ratifying the draft National Charter, which will be submitted to a referendum.

Article 1: The draft National Charter has been adopted in all its provisions (?in accordance) with the present decree.

Article 2: The present draft National Charter will be submitted to the people in a referendum.

Article 3: The date and modalities of the organization of the referendum will be announced by (?presidential) decree.

Article 4: The present decree will be [words indistinct] and published at the (?time it is signed).

The head of state also signed a decree on the institution of an electoral college in the country [words indistinct] and consult the people by referendum provided by Ordinance No 87-016 of 11 May 1987. On this occasion, the people will have to answer "yes" or "no" the following question: Do you approve the draft National Charter adopted by Ordinance No 87-016 of 11 May 1987?

Article 2: [number as heard] The campaign for the referendum will open on Saturday 30 May, 1987 at midnight and close at midnight, Friday 12 June, 1987. Heads of administrative constituencies where changes are to be made in the voters list will draw up a list containing the changes 5 days before voting day.

Article 3: The polls will open at 0800 and will close at 1800. However, in the administrative constituencies and municipal areas where the need arises to facilitate conditions for voters to exercise their voting rights, or it would appear to be useful to prolong the duration of the voting, the minister of interior envisages special decrees that will be published and fixed in each administrative constituency and in each municipal area concerned, at least 5 days before the meeting of the electoral college.

Article 4: The list of polling stations and the modalities of organization of the voting will be provided in a decree from the minister of interior, who is charged with the execution of the present decree, which will be published in the *Government Gazette* of the Republic of Niger.

NIGERIA

Government To Intensify Security at Borders
AB121805 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
 1700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] A contingency plan is being worked out by the Federal

Government to intensify security at strategic border areas. This is to forestall unprovoked invasions like the one carried out by Cameroonian soldiers in Borno State last week.

Governor Abdul Mumina Aminu told State House correspondents in Lagos that the plan would also put an end to such incursions. The governor, who was at Dodan Barracks to brief the National Security Council on the issue, said Nigeria's neighbors were being aggressive in spite of steps taken to maintain peaceful coexistence with them. He warned that, henceforth, Nigeria would retaliate (?in the face of) such unprovoked aggression.

SIERRA LEONE

Minister Says 'Hands Are Clean' in Coup Plot
AB112024 London BBC World Service in English
 1709 GMT 11 May 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Some top politicians in Sierra Leone are apparently getting jumpy as the hunt continues for people connected with the coup plot against President Momoh, uncovered on March the 23d. A former vice president, Francis Minah, is in Pendembu Road Jail after being interrogated by police. Last week, the minister of trade and industry confirmed that he'd been questioned. Now a member of parliament and minister of state for party affairs, Edward Temba Kamara, is busy challenging anyone to find a shred of evidence that links him to the plot. From Freetown, Kalu Kamara cabled this report:

[Begin recording] Kamara issued the challenge when I called on him this morning to ask whether he had made a statement to the police from interrogation. Mr Kamara said his hands are clean and that he had absolutely nothing to do with the plan to stage a coup. As far as I'm concerned, Mr Kamara told me, I have no reason to plot anything against President Momoh and the government of which I am part. To whom much is given, much will be expected, Mr Kamara added.

He made it clear that throughout the early stages of the investigations, he had visited the CID [Criminal Investigations Department] headquarters only once, and that it had been to establish the nonindigenous connection of the plot. He went on: I see the president and the inspector general of police at least every other day, and I have never been interrogated or asked to make a statement about the coup plot. Those who were a party to the coup plot have everything to worry about, he said, because the party, government, and people of Sierra Leone must get to the root of the matter.

One member of parliament, a back-bencher, is now helping the police with their investigations into the coup. He is Gandhi Jimmy, a member for Bo South. He had been released after making a statement to the CID last week. But when he reported yesterday, he was asked to stay there. [end recording]

ANGOLA

69 UNITA Members Killed, 14 Captured in 8th Region

*MB121824 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] FAPLA fighters stationed in the 8th Military Region killed 69 members of the UNITA puppet gang and took another 14 prisoner during the first 4 months of this year. In the operations, our FAPLA forces also captured 36 AKM weapons, 131 (?Sterling) weapons, 15 hand grenades, 19 assorted mines, 3 60-mm mortars, and 5 RPG-7's. In the course of these actions, the fighters of the 8th Military Region in Bengo Province also freed 223 people living in the bush in captivity. In the same period, a total of 111 civilians voluntarily presented themselves to our local authorities.

FAPLA Defector on Problems With Soviet Advisors

*MB120831 (Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern
and Central Africa 0605 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 12 May (KUP) — Antonio Luis Francisco Mango, a former MPLA captain and chief of staff of the MPLA's 8th Brigade, has revealed that there are serious problems between Angolan officers and their Soviet advisers.

Captain Mango, also known as Commander Oulueyi, is one of the six FAPLA officers who recently defected to UNITA and who were presented at last Saturday's (9 May) international news conference. In an exclusive interview with KUP in Jamba, Capt Mango said that the Soviet advisers treat the Angolan officers with scorn and suspicion. In turn, Angolan officers oppose the program of compulsory instruction in Marxism-Leninism.

Capt Mango reached a UNITA military base in Cuango Cubango Province on 8 April 1987 with the help of a compass. He said he was called anti-Soviet due to his opposition to Soviet oppression of Angolans.

He also said that Angolan officers are angered by the fact that wounded Soviets and Cubans are immediately evacuated, while wounded FAPLA soldiers are left behind for several days.

Sao Tome President Da Costa Arrives on Visit

*MB091402 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 9 May 87*

[Text] Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, has just arrived in Luanda on a visit, the length of which has not been announced. It is expected that during his stay in Luanda, President da Costa will exchange views with his Angolan counterpart Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos on issues of bilateral interest and the international situation.

President Manuel Pinto da Costa was welcomed by Comrade Pedro de Castro van Dunem, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau and minister of state for production, and other

members of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau and Central Committee, as well as by officials of the Sao Tome and Principe Embassy in Angola.

Government Earns \$1.26 Billion From Oil Exports

MB130930 Dakar PANA in English 0910 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Benguela (Angola), 13 May (ANGOP/PANA) — Angola earned 1.26 billion U.S. dollars in the first quarter of this year from the sales of its crude oil.

This figure was revealed to ANGOP during the technical council of the Foreign Trade Ministry which recently wound up its proceedings in Bengue, capital city of the southern province of Benguela.

During the same period, Angolan crude oil, the main source of hard currency for the country, was sold at 12 U.S. dollars a barrel, benefitting from the increase in oil prices on the international market.

In 1986, oil, which presently represents 85 per cent of the total Angolan exports was sold at 6 U.S. dollar barrel, a situation that compelled the Angolan Government to adopt measures of financial austerity for guaranteeing a normal socio-economic development of the country.

The U.S. which still markets 60 per cent of Angolan oil, is the main Angolan partner in the field, followed by France.

Angola exports 25,000 tonnes of coffee annually. This figure is to be considerably increased in the next five years.

Exports of coffee and other Angolan products, namely timber, granite and marble represent about 15 per cent of total Angolan exports.

According to an official of the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Angolan Government continues to strive to achieve soon a diversification of its export products, whose potentiality is enormous.

In this connection, the source added, various programmes of action were underway, pointing out rehabilitation of iron ore mining, with Romania's support, while there exists prospects for the exportation of phosphates from northern Angola. Sea products will also soon (?become) a source of income for the country.

BOTSWANA

Government Rejects Councillor's Coup Allegation

*MB081239 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1110 GMT 8 May 87*

[Excerpt] The government has dissociated itself from last week's allegations by a Botswana Democratic Party councillor that the opposition Botswana National Front had sent people to Russia and Libya for military training in preparation for a coup in

Botswana. The allegations were made by the deputy mayor of Jwaneng, Councillor Elizabeth Bathobakae, at political rallies at (Woodhall) and (Seleng) in Lobatse. In a statement today the Department of External Affairs said Miss Bathobakae's allegations did not reflect the views of the Botswana Government. During the rally, Miss Bathobakae also alleged that arms and ammunition were to be imported into this country to overthrow the government. [passage omitted]

MOZAMBIQUE

Government Reports FPLM Capture of Morrumbala
MB111125 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
 0605 GMT 10 May 87

[From the "Voice of Combat" program]

[Text] In the continuing struggle against the armed bandits, our troops recaptured Morrumbala on 28 April. In this attack, the FPLM killed 30 bandits and injured many others. Our troops captured war materiel, released 5,000 civilians from the yoke of the bandits, and destroyed the infrastructure of the bandits' camp.

The survivors have told of many cases of people murdered by the armed bandits. Stolen goods were either sold or bartered in Malawi by the thieves. The released civilians are now receiving material support and medical care.

Meanwhile, fighting in other areas of Zambezia Province is continues. In April, some 80 armed bandits were killed in the areas around Gurue and Gile.

Chissano Denounces RSA in Cape Verde Speech
MB111533 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
 1030 GMT 11 May 87

[Report on President Joaquim Chissano's visit to Cape Verde by correspondent Teodosio Mbanze]

[Text] This morning a working meeting between high-ranking delegations led by the two countries' respective presidents will take place here. The meeting is expected to deal with bilateral issues, as well as cooperation among the five Lusophone African countries, and obviously will deal with issues connected with the situation in southern Africa. It should be noted that President Joaquim Chissano's trip to Cape Verde is in the context of his visits to Frontline States. Although formally Cape Verde is not a Frontline State, we can consider it as one, taking into account the political stands it has been taking with regard to the situation in our region. There will also be talks at the party level to exchange experience.

Yesterday, President Joaquim Chissano visited the Island of Santiago, where he familiarized himself with some of the activities being carried out by Cape Verdians there to fight the effects of prolonged drought. This may enable Mozambicans to gain some useful tips in ways to fight this same calamity, the disas-

trous effects of which we all know, even though it has affected our country for a shorter period than it has Cape Verde.

With regard to this visit, let us listen to a passage from the speech made by President Chissano at a banquet given in his honor by Aristides Pereira, when the Mozambican head of state was referring to the disturbing situation in the southern part of the continent.

[Begin Chissano recording] Mozambique continues to be a victim of the apartheid regime's persistent policy of military destabilization. A total of 4.5 million people in our country are suffering the consequences of the destruction. They are forced to lead a nomadic life, suffering from the bad weather, in search of shelter against the atrocities committed by armed bandits. Hundreds of men, women, and children are murdered daily by the armed bandits who are trained and armed by the Pretoria regime, which they serve as instruments of destruction in our country.

There are continuous threats of direct aggression against our country by the South African forces. These threats are turned into action in other Frontline States, as was the case in the recent attack on Livingstone in Zambia.

Comrade president, distinguished guests, southern Africa is virtually in a state of general war. Pretoria persists in exporting its internal conflict with the South African people to the Namibian people and others beyond its borders. A part of sovereign Angolan territory is occupied by the racist forces. The South African Government denies the Namibian people the independence to which they have a right under international law, namely, through UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 which South Africa itself has accepted.

Thus, the Pretoria regime is confronting not only Mozambique and Angola and other Frontline States but the entire international community, as it opposes efforts for a negotiated solution to the problems of apartheid and Namibia. SADCC efforts toward economic liberation are sabotaged by a systematic destruction of the rail and harbor systems.

However, our people will not yield to intimidation and defeat. Our people and our Armed Forces, united around their party and government, are intensifying their fight, blunting the enemy's initiatives. They are inflicting increasingly heavy blows on the armed bandits and are achieving ever-greater successes. [end recording]

Cites Swazi Anti-MNR Offer
MB121441 Umtata Capital Radio in English
 1400 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] It is reported in Maputo that Swaziland is to help supply Mozambique's Armed Forces in the fight against South African-backed rebels. The official Mozambican news agency says Pres-

ident Joaquim Chissano announced the support yesterday, saying his soldiers need uniforms and boots. South Africa denies Maputo's accusations that it still supports the MNR rebels.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Charges Zimbabwe With 'Cover-Up'

*MB121454 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1445 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] Pretoria, May 12, SAPA — Zimbabwe was obviously accusing South Africa of being responsible for a blast in Harare yesterday to cover up the use of its territory by terrorists who plant landmines in South Africa, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in a statement in Pretoria today.

Mr Botha also rejected accusations of South African involvement in a group of Zimbabwean rebels, following the discovery of South African-manufactured soap and shoes on a rebel who was killed by Zimbabwe's Armed Forces in Matabeleland yesterday.

Mr Botha said linking South Africa to the group because the articles had been found on the rebel was "so extraordinary it borders on the ridiculous." "South African-manufactured goods, including soap and shoes, are found virtually throughout Africa," Mr Botha said. "Against this, Russian-manufactured mines, bombs, weapons and ammunition are used by terrorists in South Africa."

The terrorists did not parachute into South Africa, but were brought overland, through certain neighbouring states' territories.

"These are the facts and the Zimbabwean Government cannot deny them," Mr Botha said.

Zimbabwe had no evidence to back up its claims of South African involvement in the blast and the rebel group, because South Africa had simply not been involved, he said.

Warns Zimbabwe on Guerrillas

*MB131130 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 13 May 87*

[Text] South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has warned Zimbabwe it is heading into a serious situation if it does not stop guerrilla infiltration into South Africa. Interviewed on state-controlled SABC Radio, Mr Botha rejected charges from Zimbabwe that South Africa was responsible for an explosion last Monday [11 May] that killed a woman in a Harare apartment. Last month Pretoria sent commandos into Zambia to blow up alleged targets of the ANC guerrilla forces, and other black Frontline States have voiced fears of South African raids.

Botha on Maputo's Rejection of Machel Crash Study

*MB120718 Johannesburg International Service
in English 0630 GMT 12 May 87*

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said when the Margo Report [on Mozambican President Samora Machel's fatal plane crash] was published it would clearly be understood why the Mozambican Government rejected the findings. He said the inquiry followed the international rules thoroughly and consisted of members who were internationally renowned for their expertise regarding air disaster investigations.

Funds Allocated To Upgrade Maputo Harbor

*MB130851 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0823 GMT 13 May 87*

[Text] Pretoria, May 13, SAPA — South Africa is to make available R3 million for the upgrading of Maputo harbour, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a news release in Pretoria today.

This would be done in terms of an agreement signed between South Africa and Mozambique on March 26 this year.

The development was in line with South African efforts to promote the economic development of the region, the release said.

It followed the doubling of the railway line to Maputo, the creation of cooling facilities at the harbour, the upgrading of facilities, export credit and agricultural development in Mozambique.

It was calculated that the harbours income would eventually increase from R23 million to R168 million.

"It is expected that South Africa's involvement and commitment will have a multiplier effect and it is hoped that other countries will also show an interest in establishing a more peaceful and industrious climate in the region," the release said.

The investment in the harbour could only be profitable if it was used fully by South Africa.

"Exporters in the region, notably the northern and eastern Transvaal, will be encouraged to make full use of the facilities once they have been upgraded," the release said.

A properly functioning harbour and railway system would also have an advantageous effect on the use of the Komatiport-Maputo road which in turn could herald the resurgence of tourism.

The upgrading and development of the harbour would be done in three phases, in accordance with a feasibility study undertaken by the private sector in collaboration with the Mozambican authorities.

The R3 million for Phase 1 would be for the supply of parts and equipment, ongoing maintenance and management.

Phase II, stretching over four years, would concentrate on the repair of existing infrastructure with the aim of increasing exports to about 6 million tons per year.

Phase III would aim at further and continued repair, upgrading and the provision of new facilities.

"The benefits to Mozambique are obvious. Not only will Mozambique receive a vastly increased income but a number of additional jobs will be created for both within the harbour and on Mozambican railways."

President Asks Unseated Minister To Retain Post
MB111933 Johannesburg Television Service
in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] The state president has asked the minister of agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, who lost his seat in the Bethal constituency in the elections, to remain on as a member of the cabinet. In a statement issued in Cape Town, President Botha says that the services of Mr Wentzel are indispensable at this stage. Mr Wentzel is currently busy with the implementation of proposals by the state president's economic advisory council on the reconstruction of the agricultural industry. President Botha said the reconstruction of the industry posed great challenges and a change in the ministry concerned would benefit no one in agriculture. President Botha expressed his appreciation to Mr Wentzel and wished him well for the future.

The three deputy ministers who lost their seats in the election — the deputy minister of development and land affairs, Mr Ben Wilkens; the deputy minister of development aid, Mr Hendrik Tempel; and the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Ron Miller — have indicated to President Botha that they wish to retire. The president also offered his thanks to the three for their services to the state and the National Party. He said he hoped an opportunity to make use of their services would arise in the future.

Buthelezi Demands Black Inclusion in Assembly
MB121545 Johannesburg SABA in English
1520 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] Ulundi, May 12, SABA — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi today told the South African Government he would have nothing to do with any future dispensation which did not include blacks in the House of Assembly. He said this in a memorandum presented to the director general of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning, Dr A. van Wyk, when they met to discuss the new national states constitutional bill.

The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president said the greater powers for KwaZulu which the bill foreshadowed were welcome. He objected to the form in which these powers were being devolved to KwaZulu. The greater powers defined in the bill emanated ultimately from an unacceptable South African institution. "We will do nothing which even implies our acceptance of the tricameral parliamentary system and the racist

cornerstones on which it was established," he told Dr van Wyk.

Chief Buthelezi said there was no recognition by the government of the fact that constitutional development would be meaningful to blacks only if it started including them in the House of Assembly which was the "de facto government." Other chambers of the tricameral parliament were props for white political power, and he would never agree to KwaZulu being used in this way.

He vehemently rejected aspects of the national states constitutional bill. It contained the principle of taxation without representation and the state president retained "his total autocratic power" in the most major aspects of governmental responsibility to black South Africans. A welcome change was that the bill provided for the delegation of authority from the state president and his cabinet to the KwaZulu chief minister and his cabinet within a defined range of legislative decision making.

However, the state president retained final say over what was and not KwaZulu's "own affairs." Everything relating to what the state president regarded as "general affairs" remained under him and his ministers. The bill clearly stipulated that a legislative assembly had no power to make laws in relation to any subject falling into classes of matters which were listed.

This list showed black South Africans remained outlawed from participating in the real government of the country. "This is our country," Chief Buthelezi said, "and we will not relinquish our demand for our full participation in it. I will reject even the meagre advantages which the bill under discussion could have for KwaZulu if it in any way implied our acceptance of thus being outlawed."

The KwaZulu leader said that the government's stated intention of now proceeding with the establishment of black city states would be a further divide and rule attempt by the National Party.

Chief Buthelezi said unless the KwaZulu/Natal Indaba was taken seriously and unless the greater evolved powers contained in the bill could be used in the context of Indaba-type developments, they would backfire. "We will be seen to have increased power but decreased utility to things that really matter to people," he said. "Because I am concerned for South Africa and because I am concerned for the return of the kind of stable circumstances in which constitutional developments can better take place, I feel obliged to debate this bill very fully in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly and to consult the people about it, as I consult them over the Indaba."

Government Warns Firms on Group Areas Violations
MB120748 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0700 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] There is further evidence that the government is getting tough on the Groups Areas Act. It is reported Pretoria is taking action against companies which have settled black employees in white areas. It is also to force individual white property owners into evicting illegal black tenants and so reverse the tide of emerging gray [multiracial] areas. A Constitutional Develop-

ment Department spokesman has confirmed that a number of companies have been warned to evict black tenants, but he refused to say how many.

Johannesburg's *Business Day* newspaper reports already 100 individual property owners have been given 3 months to evict black tenants and another 50 are to receive notices soon. The move comes despite a massive shortage of black housing and a white housing surplus. Government officials have denied Pretoria has started a sudden clampdown on Group Areas contraventions.

U.S. Firms Reportedly Defy Law

MB120928 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0800 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] While the government is taking action against companies contravening the Group Areas Act, it is reported U.S. companies in South Africa have stepped up their campaign of civil disobedience. A Rand Afrikaans University paper on the latest Sullivan Report cites various examples of action taken by the American firms against racially discriminatory practices. Nearly half of the companies have black employees living in white areas. Other action by some of the firms include helping set up black businesses in white areas, a project to develop a nonracial community for employees, and threats to withdraw financial support from Port Elizabeth's university and technicon unless the number of black students increases.

Arrests, Violence Follow KwaNdebele Independence

MB111729 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
11 May 87 pp 1, 4

[By Mzikayise Edom]

[Text] A government building and four classrooms at two schools were burnt by arsonist in KwaNdebele last Friday [8 May] after homeland's Legislative Assembly voted for independence.

The renewed violence in the tiny homeland follows the announcement by the KwaNdebele Legislative Assembly that it was opting for independence. The decision, taken last Tuesday [5 May], is effective from December 11, last year.

Arsonists burnt a government building in Bronkhorstspuit, causing damage estimated at about R15,000. Two classrooms were also torched at the Hluzingondo High and two at the Mbongeni Higher Primary Schools in Kwaggafontein.

Thousands of KwaNdebele pupils boycotted classes in Siyabuswa last week in protest against the decision by the Assembly to opt for independence.

The pupils were also protesting against the detention of colleagues, teachers and school inspectors by the homeland's police.

About 200 pupils are believed to have fled the homeland, the *Sowetan* was told yesterday.

Numerous pamphlets have been distributed in the territory. They

refer to a stayaway and school boycott.

They also call for the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly and the resignation of all MP's.

There have been widespread complaints of harassment of opponents of independence by the homeland's special police force, which allegedly consists of "revenge-seeking" members of the banned vigilance group, Mbokodo. Police are also accused of raiding the homes of the Ndzundza Tribal Authority.

Sources in the homeland said more than 200 pupils, about 20 teachers and two circuit inspectors have been detained in the past few weeks.

In the past two weeks, four cabinet members who are against the independence were dismissed from the Assembly. They are Prince James Mahlangu, who is in detention, his brother Prince Cornelius Mahlangu (who was minister of health before his sacking), Mr Andries Mahlangu and Mr Solly Mahlangu (former speaker of the house).

All are members of the Ndzundza tribe.

The United Democratic Front [UDF] said the decision by the KwaNdebele Legislative Assembly was a declaration of "war" on the peace-loving citizens of South Africa residing in that area.

The UDF also called on the scrapping of the Assembly.

The Black Sash [human rights organization] also warned that violence could follow the move. The South African Institute of Race Relations said the KwaNdebele administration's decision to press ahead with independence was "sheer madness".

Transkei President Banishes Predecessor

MB111117 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1023 GMT 11 May 87

[Text] Umtata May 11 SAPA — The former state president of Transkei, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, was today banished by presidential decree to his home at Qamata in the Bizana District. The order, signed by Transkei's president, Tutor Ndamase, forbids Paramount Chief Matanzima from entering Umtata.

In a brief press conference this morning before leaving Umtata, Paramount Chief Matanzima strongly criticised the government under his brother, Prime Minister Chief George Matanzima. The paramount chief, who steered Transkei to independence, said he would continue his efforts to take over the government from his brother.

The banishment of Paramount Chief Matanzima follows an amendment to the Transkei Constitution, rushed through the country's legislative assembly on Friday [8 May], making it illegal for a former state president to become a member of parliament.

Last week Paramount Chief Matanzima quit the ruling Transkei

National Independence Party (TNIP) to form an opposition party, which he named the Transkei National Party (TNP), vowing to take power at the no-confidence debate which opens in the National Assembly today.

Information Bureau Issues 12 May Unrest Report
 MB130900 Johannesburg SAPA in English
 0858 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Pretoria, May 13, SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report.

Unrest report (period 00h01 to 24h00) 12/4/1987.

A group of about 30 black radicals stoned a private vehicle in Zola (Soweto) yesterday. A man and 6 youths were arrested. No injuries were reported.

Two black men and 3 black youths were arrested in Botshabelo (Bloemfontein) yesterday after stoning a bus. No injuries were reported and damage was indicated as minimal.

A black man and a black woman sustained slight injuries when a group of about 50 black radicals stoned a bus in Guguletu (Cape Town). In a similar incident, a black woman and two black men sustained slight injuries. No arrests were made and damage was reported to be minimal.

A few other incidents of stonings and illegal gatherings occurred in Guguletu yesterday. No injuries or arrests were made and damage was minimal.

Other unrest-related incidents reported during the above mentioned period comprised isolated stonings, illegal gatherings and petrol bomb attacks. No injuries or arrests were reported and damage was indicated as minimal.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB130814 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: Security NP Primary Objective

"Now it appears that the mandate the government has accepted is, as the State President puts it, to pursue security for the country and its people as a primary objective," says Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 12 May in its page 6 editorial. However, P.W. Botha "also accepts that continued reform and development in various fields of society remain a government priority." *The Citizen* nevertheless believes that "any action the government takes that shows it is getting tough will be used to smear it. Since the government is firmly in office, it does not, in an electoral sense, matter what anybody says. However, it would be unfortunate if the perception here and overseas is that the government is more conscious of security than it is of reform. Many people voted for it because it could be effective in handling both security and reform. The government should therefore speed up reform while it takes whatever steps it regards as necessary to

safeguard the country against insurrection and outside interference."

STAR on Group Areas 'Harassment'

A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 12 May says: "It is very dubious whether the State actually has the power to evict from their present accommodation tenants and property owners disqualified by race from group areas in which they are living. As things stand, a court ruling that alternative accommodation must be available before anyone can be evicted appears to prevent full-scale Government action without a change in law. But it doesn't prevent harassment." "Even though the Government believes in separate residential areas now is not the time to try to turn back the tide. Turning people out of their homes for being the wrong colour makes a mockery of reform promises."

NP 'in Tune' With Electorate Needs

"The National Party's 'Reform, yes — surrender, no' election strategy was perfectly in tune with the needs of the electorate, an analysis of the pre-election poll conducted by Marketing and Media Research [MMR] has found," says an unsigned commentary on the same page. The commentary quotes Jos Kuper, managing director of MMR: "the NP emphasis in the days just before the election on the 'ANC gevaar [threat]' seems to have been a clever strategy since it dovetailed with the attitudes not only of their own supporters but also with those of the PFP/NRP [Progressive Federal Party/New Republic Party] supporters polled and, of course, with those of the right wing." "It seems then that the results confirm that the NP was closely in tune with the needs of the electorate as far as their election strategy was concerned."

NP Split Likely if Reform Rejected

Another unsigned commentary on the same page notes that "Professor Schlemmer, director of the Centre for Policy Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, told a seminar of the Association of Chambers of Commerce (ASSOCOM) it was inconceivable that the NP could maintain unity within its ranks if it chose to back away from reform." Former *Rapport* editor Willem de Klerk "said he did not believe the Government would put out feelers to launch a new negotiating process as long as those it would have to negotiate with refused to renounce violence." De Klerk "believed it would take a landslide event to create the circumstances in which a new centrist party, taking in the left of the NP and the centre and right of the PFP and the independents could be formed." John Barratt, director general of the South African Institute of International Affairs, fears "that the Government will not co-operate with outside pressures to lead it to the negotiating table and that the end result may well be increased pressure for sanctions against South Africa."

BUSINESS DAY on Student Election Boycott

"No doubt it will come as a surprise to the students of Wits [University of the Witwatersrand] and UCT [University of Cape Town] to learn that Andries Treurnicht owes his position as Leader of the Opposition to their boycott of elections," says a page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 12 May. "It is entirely proper to question the decision by the Wits University authorities to allow [Black Sash patron] Helen Joseph to campaign on campus against voting, and to refuse [PFP MP]

Helen Suzman the opportunity to reply. The direct, awful result was to make the Conservative Party the official Opposition." "South African liberals stand at the threshold of a long, dark night, to which the student boycott of the elections has contributed crucially. It is time the university authorities were called to account."

BUSINESS DAY: 'Boer-Bashing' From U.S. Likely

On page 6 Simon Barber writes from Washington that "eighty percent of South Africans who voted last Wednesday [6 May] opted for regression or, at best, highly defensive gradualism towards a future they dared not think about. State President P.W. Botha received a mandate for Gotterdamerung (Twilight of the gods), and the only question was whether he would have the political guts not to use it." "Logically, voters might have taken a more realistic look at themselves, blaming the grimness of their future on government rather than the outside world." Barber further says "once sanctions and disinvestment have reduced American leverage in SA to zero, there will be nothing left to do but sit and watch the night descend. This being a potentially embarrassing experience, the great American polity will wring its hands and go in search of some other mayhem to wreak." "Boer-bashing" is "cheap and goes down like a treat with the kind of activists who vote in Democratic primaries. So perhaps it is just as well that Botha got his mandate for Gotterdamerung. The way things are going, he'll need it."

SOWETAN on KwaNdebele Independence

"One did not need to be clairvoyant to predict that a decision to take independence for KwaNdebele would plunge the area into violence," remarks Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 12 May in its page 6 editorial. "Last year the bantustan's Legislative Assembly voted for independence, but the violence that followed caused a reversal of that decision." "We believe it is not too late for the Legislative Assembly to again reverse their decision. After all, the independence will be merely symbolic: the tiny homeland will still depend on South Africa for everything. It is not necessary to polish some people's ego at so high a price. We are seeing the effects of so-called independence in Transkei, where two brothers chose 'independence'. Now they are at each other's throats, with accusations of corruption flying to and fro."

SWAZILAND

Plans To Supply Mozambique Government Denied

MB130828 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 13 May 87 p 16

[By Jabu Matsebula]

[Text] Swaziland will help supply armed forces in their fight against rebels who have been fighting Frelimo over the past ten years.

The offer was made [announced] by Mozambique President Mr Joachim Chissano in Cape Verde, West Africa, on Monday [11 May], according to the *Mozambique News Agency*, AIM yesterday.

According to the news report Mr Chissano, on his way back from

a European tour, announced the Swaziland offer at the Cape Verde capital, Praia.

But, in Mbabane the offer [offer] was greeted with official surprise.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Shadrack Sibanyoni said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not aware of the offer to help.

"As far as I am aware, we have not received any such requests and I am not aware of any such offer by the government. I have never been involved in any such talks," he said.

Mr Sibanyoni said the Kingdom's foreign policy is that Swaziland does not involve itself in the domestic affairs of another country.

A spokesman at the Prime Minister's office also denied any knowledge of the offer to Mozambique.

A spokesman for Mozambique ambassador Mr Daniel Magaia in Mbabane was equally non-plussed.

"The best people to ask would be your Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the government spokesman.

"As a Mozambican, I cannot confirm stories about Swaziland," he said.

However he did not say if these had been promised by Swaziland.

President Chissano who succeeded Mozambique founder President Samora Machel who died in a plane crash last October, in South Africa, has claimed several military successes against the rebel MNR.

Mozambique claims the rebels are supported by South Africa, a charge Pretoria denies.

Zimbabwe and Tanzania, according to the AIM statement, are taking part in action against the rebel guerrillas who have been reported to operate from all 10 Mozambique provinces.

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Deplores Copperbelt Violence

MB131114 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] There have been riots in Zambia's Copperbelt. Incidents of looting follow Zambia's break with the International Monetary Fund and President Kaunda's announcement of a price freeze. Today the president abhorred the violence and warned of strong measures to come. Jim Fish has details from Lusaka:

[Fish] At a press conference in Lusaka this morning President Kaunda strongly denounced yesterday's violence in the Copperbelt towns of Kitwe and Ndola, which followed demands by activists of Zambia's sole political party, United National Independence Party, UNIP, that traders reduce their prices. He

ordered local governors and officials to be on alert and called for an orderly transition into the new phase of post-IMF economic restructuring.

Yesterday seven people were injured in Kitwe after gangs of youth began seizing large quantities of second-hand clothes, which are commodity in Zambia's markets. The police were called in and many traders and shopkeepers quickly closed their business.

SACC Officials Meet ANC, PAC Figures in Lusaka
MB091811 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1808 GMT 9 May 87

[Text] Lusaka, May 9, SAPA — Executive members of the South African Council of Churches [SACC] today met officials of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania for more than four hours in Lusaka, Zimbabwe's semi-official news agency, ZIANA, reported.

The meeting was one of several informal meetings held after a week-long world Council of Churches conference on South Africa and SWA/Namibia which ended yesterday.

The leaders of the ANC, the PAC and SWAPO addressed the meeting during the week.

Although the PAC leader, Mr Johnson Mlambo, received some hostile questions from South African delegates, sources close to

the meeting said the PAC had impressed most delegates, including some South African residents.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Condemns Bomb Blast at Apartment Block
MB121806 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 12 May 87

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has condemned the Pretoria regime for last night's bombing of a civilian residential flat in Harare in which one person was killed and several others injured. Speaking to newsmen after touring the scene of the blast today, Comrade Mugabe said the blast is part of South Africa's well-planned series of acts of murder and sabotage against neighboring states.

However, the prime minister said Zimbabwe will not be intimidated by the racist regime's acts of destabilization. He said the bomb blast gives Zimbabwe greater strength and determination to fight the Botha white minority regime in all international fora. Comrade Mugabe said Zimbabwe will not rest in its quest for international support against the apartheid regime. He said the bomb blast is aimed at giving confidence to the regime's supporters, but the government they voted for in the election is capable of dealing ruthlessly with any of its neighbors who do not support its policies.